



Course Outline

Course number	RBE309
Course title	Theories of Justice
Credit points	3 ECTS (2 LV)
Total hours	80
Contact hours	30
Course level	Bachelor
Prerequisites	None

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Linda Apse	PhD	Lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Academic degree</i>	<i>Academic position</i>
Linda Apse	PhD	Lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course offers an in-depth insight into the history of ideas and specifically to the issues pertaining to moral reasoning. The discourse of social justice is a fundamental dimension of human rights in a democratic society. The course discusses most prominent thinkers on justice, principal theories and doctrines, controversies and visions for future development of human society. The debates will involve such contentious moral issues as individual freedom, rule of the majority, duty and responsibility, bioethics, distribution of justice.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has the following main objectives:

Knowledge:

1. The students acquire knowledge and understanding about the principal philosophical frameworks on moral reasoning.

2. The students develop understanding of the main aspects of the history of ideas in the realm of moral reasoning.
3. The students become aware of various aspects of social justice and learn how different societies are dealing with issues that require and ideally should require public discussion/ consent.

Skills:

1. The students have improved their negotiation, argumentation and presentation skills.
2. The students have improved their ability to work in groups and respect others' opinions.
3. The students have acquired skills necessary for critical thinking.

Competences:

1. The students are able to apply the knowledge gained during the course to develop arguments in a consistent and persuasive manner, defend their opinions drawing on theoretical paradigms and personal experience.
2. The students are able to apply methods of critical thinking for developing and evaluating arguments.
3. The students have improved their writing skills by having improved the use of language (vocabulary and syntax) specific of argumentative discourse.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam paper: 1) opinion essay with references to theoretical frameworks; 2) case studies - comparison of solutions proposed by different approaches to justice (individual, take-home)	60%
In-class discussions, group debates, assignments	40%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To pass the course, a student must 1) take part in class discussions and debates (40%), 2) submit an opinion essay and case studies (60%). The final grade of the course will be the average of the two components. If the final grade turns out to be negative (1 – 3), a student is entitled to a re-exam consisting of writing an opinion essay and cases studies. The re-exam grade will be the final grade for the whole course.

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	Main subjects	Planned hours
1.	Utilitarianist (consequentialist) vs. libertarian (freedom of choice) moral reasoning.	5
2.	Libertarianism vs. distribution of justice.	4
3.	Discussion on controversial issues concerning social justice, e.g. military conscription, euthanasia, taxation, organ donation, democracy and individual freedom etc.	6