**Introduction to Ethics**

Course Code: PHI 120

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course Description:***

The course assesses whether common ethical standards are possible, focusing on the problem of good and evil as related to human behaviour. It asks, among the rest, what is the meaning of being free and responsible, what are one's rights, and how does one assess a right moral course of action in life?

***Course Objective:***

The course aims at helping students acquire awareness of ethical questions and to develop ability to critically evaluate ethical positions and arguments.

***Learning Objectives***

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Explain what ethics is about and how it differs from morality
2. Define the terms moral agent, amoral and nonmoral.
3. Describe and critically evaluate the various views held on the good life.
4. Reflect upon and clarify their own views on just social relations.
5. Advance critical ethical argumentation on what is considered to be right conduct

***Course Outline***

1. General Introduction

2. Ethics and Religion

3. The Virtue of Benevolence

4. Normative Ethical Theories

5. Justice and Its Forms

***Methodology***

The facilitator(s) will employ the following methods; Lectures, individual presentations, textual criticism, guest lectures

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. Olson Robert G., *Ethics: A Short Introduction*, New York, Random House, 1978
2. Oruka H. Odera, *Ethics*, Nairobi, NairobiUniversity Press, 1990
3. Norman Richard, *The Moral Philosophers*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1998
4. Warburton Nigel, *Philosophy: The Basics*, New York, Routledge, 1999
5. Thompson Mel, *Ethics,*London, Cox and Wyman, 1994

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**YEAR TWO** - *Semester One*