

## GESS1029/GES1041 Everyday Ethics in Singapore

### Description

This module examines the ethical dimensions of everyday life in Singapore. It focuses on moral dilemmas that arise in the nation's pursuit of 'happiness, prosperity, and progress'. We will explore how moral reasoning from multiple perspectives applies to local concerns such as equality, meritocracy, multiculturalism, immigration, and marriage. This will challenge us to identify moral problems created by social and technological changes, combine ethical principles with practical constraints, and balance the interests of individuals and communities. We will also consider how moral dialogue can be cultivated in Singapore's multicultural society, so as to manage diverse traditions and divergent values.

### Learning Outcomes

1. We will be able to identify and interpret *moral values* encountered every day. We will raise questions about these values and clarify conflicts between them in moral dilemmas.
2. We will be able to use basic *moral reasoning* in debates on Singapore that connect individual choices with social structures. We will analyse these debates using moral concepts.
3. We will be able to design some norms and strategies for *moral dialogue* in different settings. We will learn to negotiate moral disagreement, evasion, and compromise.
4. We will learn how to read texts closely in order to assess their arguments and assumptions critically.

This module requires intensive reading each week before lecture and small-group discussion in tutorial. **Be ready to be creative, collaborative, and compassionate.**

### Schedule

Week 01	Introduction: Everyday ethics in Singapore
Week 02	Do poor people like oats?
Week 03	Inequality in perspective
Week 04	Do elites deserve prizes
Week 05	Meritocracy in perspective

Week 06	Inequality and Meritocracy in Review
Week 07	How many others in C-M-I-O?
Week 08	Multiculturalism in perspective
Week 09	Are we cosmopolitan yet?
Week 10	Project work
Week 11	MCQ clinic
Week 12	Review: Everyday ethics in perspective

### Teaching Mode

This course is blended. There will be weekly pre-recorded videos and in-person lectures on alternate weeks.

Tutorials will be conducted in person.

Attendance in tutorials is compulsory.

Please do not record the module's sessions or share its materials without permission.

### Workload

2-1-0-2.5-4.5 (no. of hours for lecture/tutorial/lab/projects/preparatory work per week)

### Syllabus

1. There is no textbook for GES1041/GESS1029. Please check the 'Home' page on Canvas regularly for updates to the reading list.

- Each week, there is only one *required* reading. Please complete the reading before the lecture. Be prepared to discuss its arguments and assumptions.
- *Supplementary* resources are for your exploration. For more suggestions, please contact the lecturer.

2. These books are available for reference in the Central Library RBR or E-Resources.

- Terence Chong ed. (2020). *Navigating Differences: Integration in Singapore*. ISEAS Publishing.
- Loh Kah Seng *et al.* eds. (2017). *Living with Myths in Singapore*. Ethos Books.
- Mathew Mathews and Chiang Wai Fong eds. (2016). *Managing Diversity in Singapore: Policies and Prospects*. Imperial College Press.

- Terence Chong ed. (2010). *Management of Success: Singapore Revisited*. ISEAS Publishing.
- Gerald Gaus and Fred D'Agostino eds. (2013). *The Routledge Companion to Social and Political Philosophy*. New York: Routledge.
- Anthony Weston (2018). *A 21st Century Ethical Toolbox (Fourth Edition)*. New York: Oxford University Press.

### Assessment

15%	<b>Reading quizzes x 3</b>	5 MCQ
15%	<b>Journal entries x 3</b>	500 words
5%	<b>Module Participation</b>	Surveys and Tutorial Attendance
10%	<b>Group report</b>	1000 words in Week 10
20%	<b>Group presentation</b>	PowerPoint presentation in Week 11 (at tutorial)
5%	<b>Peer Evaluation</b>	For Group Work
30%	<b>Exam (face-to-face)</b>	MCQ, open-book, 2 hours

Assessment rubrics for all assignments will be detailed in assignment sheets and discussed at lectures.

### FAQ

*Q1. I have little experience doing 'humanities/ social science' readings.*

Support will be provided to help students understand the readings. The blended format also gives students the opportunity to slow down and rewatch explanations of the readings and key concepts at their own pace.

*Q2. Who will be in our project groups?*

You will be randomly allocated into breakout groups for tutorial discussions. Those discussions will be the basis for your group projects.

*Q3. When do tutorials start?*

Week 3. They are conducted once every two weeks. **Attendance in tutorials is compulsory.**