HSS102: Value Education and Ethics (VEE)

Programme: B.Tech.   **Year :** I Year   **Semester** : Even
Course : VEE   **Credits** : 3   **Hours** : 40

Course Context and Overview (100 words):

It provides a framework of ethical conduct for an engineer in terms of both external standards of behaviour and practices and also internal set of principles required to achieve success as a professional.

Prerequisites Courses: N/A

Course outcomes (COs):

On completion of this course, the students will have the ability to:
CO1 Understanding various theoretical positions on ethical principles and their applications.
CO2 Comprehending the role of representation in the perception and construction of the self (cultural identity) and its repercussions.
CO3 Recognizing various facets of happiness and their role in overall wellbeing.
CO4 Appreciating the key elements of a strong professional work ethic for excellence in an engineer's career and its importance in an international work environment.
CO5 Understanding ethics and ethical theories in the broad framework of Professional ethics and analysing case-studies based on them.

Course Topics:

Topics	Lecture Hours
UNIT I Ethics in Theory and Practice	
Ethics in Theory and Practice ● Why a course on Human Values and Ethics ● Secular outlook on Human Values ● Good and Evil (Discussion on Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra's *Aks*) ● Hedonism and Ethical Hedonism ● Utilitarianism and Deontological Ethics [Kant and Bhagavad Gita] ● Ted Talk by Devdutt Patnaik on 'Not Quite Avatar' to understand Eastern and Western way of looking at Good and Evil	10
UNIT II Ethics of Identity	
Ethics of Identity (Self and Representation) ● Religious divide; Casteism; Racism; Gender and Patriarchy ● Cosmopolitanism: thinking beyond stereotypes and prejudices through empathetic understanding ● Ted Talk by Thandie Newton on 'Embracing Otherness, Embracing Myself'	5

UNIT III Happiness	
c. Happiness: • Authentic Happiness and Wellbeing: Martin Seligman • Tal Ben Shahar's SPIRE Model • Matthew Ricard on Mind Training • GNH: a model of measuring Wellbeing • Ted Talk by Martin Seligman on 'PERMA and Signature Strengths' • Ted Talk by Matthew Ricard on 'The Habits of Happiness'	**5**
UNIT IV Work Ethic and Excellence	
1. Need for Work Ethic & workplace ethics • Personal work ethic for better performance • Workplace standards of ethical practices 2. Thriving in an uncertain and volatile environment • Volatility-Uncertainty-Complexity-Ambiguity • Unfamiliarity, inadequacy, unfairness, adversity 3. Enhancement of personal attributes • Intelligence/Emotional/Social/Physical/Spiritual Quotients • Others' opinion of our personal attributes 4. Teamwork: orientation and emphasis • Team dynamics – 80% of success depends on team • Building trust in teams **5.** Ted Talks, video clips	**10**
UNIT V Ethics and Professionalism	

1. Virtue Ethics
    • Definition
    • Cardinal virtues
    • Self-regarding and Altruistic Virtues
    • Moral Syllogism and its examples in daily life
    • Ted Talk (Kailash Satyarthi, Peter Singer)
 	
2. Rights and Duty Ethics
    • Nature of Moral Ought
    • Narrow and Broad Moral Universe
    • Moral Rights and Duties
    • Utilitarianism
    • Casuistry (Narmada River Dam and WIPP)
    • Perfect and Imperfect Obligations
 	
3. Vice, Sin, Crime and Punishment
    • Definitions and Descriptions with examples
    • Theories of Punishment
    • Circle of Crime, Punishment, and Forgiveness
    • Ted talk (Kiran Bedi, Anand Giridhradas)
 	
4. Professionalism and Codes of Ethics
    • Nature and Attributes of a Profession
    • What is a code of Ethics
    • Professional Societies (Business and Social Contract model)
    • Codes of Ethics of Professional Societies (IEEE, ACM, ASME)
	10

- Case Studies – Bhopal Gas Tragedy (1984), Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) System (1970s)

5. Rights and Responsibilities of Engineers
   - Rights Vs Responsibilities of Engineers
   - Confidentiality and Propriety Information
   - Environmental Ethics
   - Computer Ethics
   - Whistle-Blowing (Need and advantages and disadvantages)
   - Ways to avoid Whistleblowing
   - Corporate Codes of Ethics
   - Case Study- Intel Pentium Chip Case (1994)

References:

1. Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy. <plato.stanford.edu>
2. Appiah, Anthony, *Ethics of Identity,* New York: Princeton University Press. 2007.
3. Seligman, Martin, *Authentic Happiness,* London: Nicholas Brealey Publishing. 2011.
4. Fleddermann, Charles B, *Engineering Ethics,* New Delhi: Pearson Education. 2004.
5. Mackenzie, John S, *Manual of Ethics,* London: University Tutorial Press Ltd. 1964.

Evaluation Methods:

Item	Weightage (%)
Quiz/Attendance	20
Midterm	30
Final Examination	50

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