Module Definition Form (MDF)

Module code: MOD011391	**Version:** 1 **Date Amended:** 12/Dec/2025

1. Module Title
Ethics in Practice: Healthcare, Law, and the Environment

2a. Module Leader
Tristan Moyle

2b. School
School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Arts, Humanities, Education and Social Sciences

3a. Level
5

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
15

4b. Study Hours
150

5. Restrictions

Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	None		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

This module examines ethical issues arising in areas such as healthcare, criminal and international law, and the environment. We will be debating questions such as: Should assisted dying be legalised? What are the arguments for and against abortion? Is a patient's autonomy more important than their welfare? In the area of law, we will be debating the justification for criminal punishment, the ethics of war and peace, the philosophy of sex and gender, and whether we have a duty to give to charity, amongst other things. In relation to the environment and non-human world, we will interrogate recent work on animal rights and the politics of animal ethics, including debates about the morality of human intervention to stop predation and the concept of animal citizenship.

Through this module you will develop critical thinking, employability, and problem-solving skills. You will enhance your teamworking and communication skills through group-work, class debates, and presentations. Peer-led question and answer sessions after each presentation will help to develop your ability to seek and act on constructive criticism. The Live Brief element, co-designed with a professional external partner, will help you evidence the practical application of your learning in a work context.

6b. Outline Content

- Medical ethics
- Philosophy of criminal punishment
- Ethics of war and peace
- Sex and gender
- World poverty and global justice
- Animal rights and welfare
- Environmental ethics

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	**Type**	**On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:**
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Identify and analyse key arguments in practical ethics
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Discuss the contemporary questions to which different moral positions offer answers
3	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply philosophical knowledge to real-world problems
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Present ideas and arguments clearly and concisely in written and verbal formats to a non-specialist audience

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	**Occurrence**	**Period**	**Location**	**Mode of Delivery**
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	**Hours**	**Learning Outcomes**	**Details of Duration, frequency and other comments**
Lectures	24	1-4	Weekly two-hour structured seminar
Other teacher managed learning	0	N/A	N/A
Student managed learning	126	1-4	Interacting with materials on Canvas, reading, researching
TOTAL:	150		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence

The assessment for some modules includes a presentation (see below for details on how this particular module is assessed). We recognise that presenting, especially to a large group, can cause significant anxiety or distress for some students. If this may affect you, please contact your Module Leader or the Disability and Neurodiversity Service as early as possible. We will work with you to consider appropriate reasonable adjustments. Depending on your individual needs, these might include, for example, presenting to a smaller group or presenting only to a member of academic staff.

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-2	100 (%)	Fine Grade	30 (%)
2000 words Article					

Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
011	Practical	3-4	0 (%)	Pass/Fail	100 (%)
Live Brief Project, equivalent to 1000 words					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:
(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above
(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]