

Course Title	:	Buddhist ethics: conflicts and dilemmas in modern world
Course Code	:	GEF1008
Department	:	CRSE

Synopsis

Does Buddhism mean a religion of introspective withdrawal from the world today? Do monks and Buddhists only live a secluded way of life in forest monasteries? Can Buddhist doctrines and ethics like loving-kindness and compassion developed two thousand years ago in India support the idea of global ethics under globalization? This course provides students with an overview of traditional Buddhist values and how Engaged Buddhism responds to the ethical issues concerning the balance between individual and society in the contemporary context, like human rights, social justice and sexual equality. Cases of Engaged Buddhism in Asia and the West are to be investigated not only for the purpose of developing a deeper understanding on how Buddhism is responding to contemporary challenges but also for examining its limitations in the light of global ethics. The course will include short and provocative lectures. Students will be required to undertake article reading, class discussions, debates, and group research projects. Students will be asked to consider questions regarding ethics on life and death, social justice, economics, bioengineering and sex, etc. In the process, students will learn how to reflect their own feelings, cultural biases, different interpretations and personal live experiences.