

## Philosophy Faculty Reading List and Course Outline 2017-2018

### PART IA PAPER 02: ETHICS AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

#### SYLLABUS

- **Metaethics:** fact and value; objectivity and subjectivity.
- **Normative ethics:** consequentialism; deontology; virtue ethics.
- **Moral psychology:** egoism and altruism; empathy; cognitive and affective attitudes.
- **Political obligation and authority:** classical social contract theory; natural duty and fair play theory; anarchism.
- **Equality of opportunity:** varieties of equality of opportunity; justifications and controversy; positive discrimination.

#### Course Outline

The course introduces students to a selection of the main problems in moral and political philosophy. The topics studied are divided into five main subject areas:

**Introduction to Metaethics:** This part of the course introduces students to some of the central questions in metaethics. One topic centres on the so called 'fact/value distinction'. Is there, indeed, such a distinction? If so, what is it? Is it possible to make inferences from descriptive or non-moral claims to evaluative, normative, or moral claims? Can moral properties be identified with natural properties? A second topic is concerned with whether moral judgments are objective or subjective. Can we know what is morally right and wrong? Or is there nothing to be known because moral judgements merely express emotions or preferences? Are there facts about what is good or valuable, and if there are do they obtain independently of human thought or feeling?

**Moral Psychology:** The second area of the syllabus is focused on questions concerning moral decision-making and moral motivation. Can people act altruistically or is there always a selfish element in motivation? What sorts of motivation does morality require? What sorts of justification can be given in favour of moral motivation? What roles do affective and cognitive attitudes play in moral judgment and moral motivation?

**Introduction to Normative Ethics:** This part of the course is concerned with the question what the right thing to do is. Does morality require us to maximise pleasure and minimise pain? Must we act only in ways that are universalizable? Is it permissible to kill one so that five others may live? What is virtue? Students will be introduced to three central approaches to normative ethics: consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics.

**Political Obligation:** A central, if not the central problem for political philosophy is that of how to justify the authority of the state. Should we obey the law just because it is the law? When, if ever, is it justified to break the law or to overthrow the state? How should we respond to the anarchist claim that no actual, or even possible, political authority is legitimate?

**Equality of Opportunity:** It is intuitive to think that our society is just only if we each have an equal opportunity to receive key benefits available in our society. But what does equality of opportunity mean in this context? And which benefits should we be concerned with? Is equality of opportunity compatible with private education? With affirmative action? With financial reward for natural talents? With family life?

As well as looking forward to topics covered in the IB and Part II Ethics papers, the study of IA Ethics and Political Philosophy looks forward to some of the themes studied in the Political Philosophy papers in Parts IB and II.

#### Prerequisites

None

#### Objectives

Students taking this paper will be expected to:

1. Acquire a detailed knowledge of some of the central arguments in the chosen readings.
2. Acquire an understanding of how the different topics studied relate to each other.
3. Engage in close criticism with the arguments studied.
4. Develop their own powers of philosophical analysis and argument, through study of the chosen topics.

#### Preliminary Reading

BLACKBURN, Simon, *Being Good* (Oxford: Oxford Paperbacks, 2002).

KNOWLES, Dudley, *Political Obligation: A Critical Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2010). Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com). [Introductory text]

SWIFT, Adam, *Political Philosophy: A Beginners' Guide for Students and Politicians* (Cambridge: Polity, 2014), ch. 3 'Equality'.

## READING LIST

Material marked with an **asterisk**\* is important

### METAETHICS

#### Fact and Value

- \*MOORE, G. E., 'The Subject-Matter of Ethics', in his *Principia Ethica*, edited by T. Baldwin, ed., (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993). Also available on [Moodle](#).
- \*SEARLE, John R., 'How to Derive "Ought" From "Is"', *Philosophical Review*, 73 (1964): 43-58. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2183201>. Reprinted in P. Foot, ed., *Theories of Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), pp. 101-14.
- ALTHAM, J. E. J., 'Wicked Promises', in I. Hacking, ed., *Exercises in Analysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 1-22. Also available on [Moodle](#).
- FOOT, Philippa, 'Moral Beliefs', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society*, 59 (1958-9): 83-104. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4544606>. Reprinted in her *Theories of Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), pp. 83-100.
- FRANKENA, W.K., 'The Naturalistic Fallacy', *Mind*, 48 (1939): 464-77. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2250706>. Reprinted in P. Foot, ed., *Theories of Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), pp. 50-63.
- HARE, R. M., 'The Promising Game', *Revue Internationale de Philosophie*, 70 (1964): 398-412. Reprinted in P. Foot, ed., *Theories of Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1967), pp. 115-27.
- HUEMER, Michael, *Ethical Intuitionism* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), ch. 4 'Reductionism'. Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com).
- MACKIE, J. L., *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* (London: Penguin, 1977), ch. 2 'The Meaning of "Good"'. [Overview]
- RAILTON, Peter, 'Facts and Values', *Philosophical Topics*, 14 (1986): 5-31. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43153978>. Reprinted in his *Facts, Values and Norms* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003).
- SOBER, Elliott, *From a Biological Point of View* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), ch. 5 'Prospects for an evolutionary ethics'. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511624940.006>.

#### Objectivity and Subjectivity

- \*DARWALL, Stephen, *Philosophical Ethics* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1998), chs. 2, 3 & 5-8.
- \*FOOT, Philippa, 'Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives', *Philosophical Review*, 81, no. 3 (1972): 305-16. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2184328>
- \*MACKIE, J.L., *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* (London: Penguin, 1977), ch. 1 'The Subjectivity of Values'. Also available on [Moodle](#).
- \*SCHROEDER, Mark, *Noncognitivism in Ethics* (London: Routledge, 2010), chs. 1-3.
- AYER, A.J., *Language, Truth and Logic* (London: Gollancz, 1936), ch. 6 'Critique of Ethics and Theology'. Also available on [Moodle](#).

- BLACKBURN, Simon, *Ruling Passions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), ch. 3 'Naturalizing norms'.
- BRINK, David, *Moral Realism and the Foundations of Ethics* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), ch. 2 'Moral realism and moral inquiry'. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511624612.003>.
- FOOT, Philippa, *Natural Goodness* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001). Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/0198235089.001.0001>.
- HARMAN, Gilbert, *The Nature of Morality* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977), ch. 1 'Ethics and observation'.
- HARMAN, Gilbert, and Judith JARVIS THOMSON, *Moral Relativism and Moral Objectivity* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996).
- LILLEHAMMER, Hallvard, *Companions in Guilt: Arguments for Ethical Objectivity* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), ch. 5 'Values and secondary qualities'. Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com).
- MCDOWELL, John, 'Values and Secondary Qualities', in G. Sayre-McCord, ed., *Essays on Moral Realism* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1988), pp. 166-80. Also available on [Moodle](#). Reprinted in J. Rachels, ed., *Ethical Theory*. Vol. I (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), pp. 210-26; also in his *Mind, Value and Reality* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998), pp. 133-50.
- SCHROEDER, Mark, 'What is the Frege-Geach Problem?' *Philosophy Compass*, 3, no. 4 (2008): 703-20. Available online only at: <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-9991.2008.00155.x>.
- SMITH, Michael, 'Realism', in P. Singer, ed., *A Companion to Ethics* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1991), pp. 399-410. Also available online at: <http://bit.ly/singer1991>. [Introductory]
- STEVENSON, Charles L., 'The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms', *Mind*, 46 (1937): 14-31. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2250027>
- STURGEON, Nicholas L., 'Moral Explanations', in D. Copp and D. Zimmerman, eds., *Morality, Reason, and Truth* (Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Allanheld, 1985), pp. 49-75.

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## NORMATIVE ETHICS

### Consequentialism

- \*RAWLS, John, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999), ch. 5 'Classical utilitarianism'. Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com).
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- \*WOLF, Susan, 'Moral Saints', *Journal of Philosophy*, 79, no. 8 (1982): 419-39. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2026228>
- ASHFORD, Elizabeth, 'Utilitarianism, Integrity and Partiality', *The Journal of Philosophy*, 97 (2000): 421-39. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2678423>
- FREY, R.G., 'Act-Utilitarianism', in H. LaFollette, ed., *The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), pp. 165-82. Also available online at: <http://bit.ly/Lafollette2000>.

- HOOKE, Brad, 'Rule-Consequentialism', in H. LaFollette, ed., *The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), pp. 183-204. Also available online at: <http://bit.ly/Lafollette2000>. [Overview]
- MILL, John Stuart, *Utilitarianism*, ch. 5 'On the connection between justice and utility'. The CUP edition is available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781139923927.005>.
- RAILTON, Peter, 'Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 13, no. 2 (1984): 134-71. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265273>
- SINGER, Peter, 'Famine, Affluence, and Morality', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1, no. 3 (1972): 229-43. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265052>
- WILLIAMS, Bernard, 'A Critique of Utilitarianism', in B. Williams and J.J.C. Smart, eds., *Utilitarianism: For and Against* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973), pp. 82-118. Also available on [Moodle](#).

## Deontology

- \*KAGAN, Shelly, *The Limits of Morality* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989), ch. 1 'Against ordinary morality'. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/0198239165.001.0001>.
- \*ROSS, W. David, *The Right and the Good*, edited by P. Stratton-Lake (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), ch. 2 'What makes right acts right?'. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/0199252653.003.0002>.
- BARON, Marcia, 'Kantian Ethics', in M. Baron, P. Pettit and M.A. Slote, eds., *Three Methods of Ethics : A Debate* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997), pp. 3-91. Also available on [Moodle](#).
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- KAMM, Frances M., 'Nonconsequentialism', in H. LaFollette, ed., *The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2000), pp. 205-26. Also available online at: <http://bit.ly/Lafollette2000>.
- NAGEL, Thomas, *The View from Nowhere* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), ch. 9 'Ethics'.
- QUINN, Warren, 'Actions, Intentions and Consequences: The Doctrine of Double Effect', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 18, no. 3 (1989): 334-51. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265475>. Reprinted in his *Morality and Action* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), pp. 175-93.
- SCANLON, T.M., 'Contractualism and Utilitarianism', in A. Sen and B. Williams, eds., *Utilitarianism and Beyond* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982), pp. 103-28. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511611964.007>. Reprinted in R. Shafer-Landau, ed., *Ethical Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007), pp. 644-60.
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- THOMSON, Judith Jarvis, 'The Trolley Problem', *The Yale Law Journal*, 94, no. 6 (1985): 1395-415. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/796133>

## Virtue Ethics

- ANNAS, Julia, 'Virtue and Eudaimonism', *Social Philosophy and Policy* 15 (1), (1998): 37-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0265052500003058>
- ANSCOMBE, G.E.M., 'Modern Moral Philosophy', *Philosophy*, 33, no. 124 (1958): 1-19. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3749051>. Reprinted in R. Crisp and M. Slote, eds., *Virtue Ethics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997).
- ARISTOTLE, *Nicomachean Ethics*, edited by R. Crisp (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), bk. 1; bk. 2, chs. 1-7.
- DANCY, Jonathan, 'Ethical Particularism and Morally Relevant Properties', *Mind*, 92, no. 368 (1983): 530-47. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2254092>
- HURSTHOUSE, Rosalind, 'Normative Virtue Ethics', in R. Crisp, ed., *How Should One Live?* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 19-33. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/0198752342.003.0002>.
- HURSTHOUSE, Rosalind, 'Virtue Ethics', in E.N. Zalta, ed., *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall 2013 edition) [Online] Available at: <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2013/entries/ethics-virtue/>. (Accessed: 10 August 2016)
- SLOTE, Michael, 'Virtue Ethics', in M. Baron, P. Pettit and M.A. Slote, eds., *Three Methods of Ethics : A Debate* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997).
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## MORAL PSYCHOLOGY

### Egoism and altruism

- \*BLACKBURN, Simon, *Ruling Passions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998), ch. 5 'Looking out for yourself'. Also available on [Moodle](#).
- \*WILLIAMS, Bernard, *Problems of the Self* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973), ch. 15 'Egoism and altruism'. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511621253.017>.
- BATSON, C. Daniel, and Laura L. SHAW, 'Evidence for Altruism: Toward a Pluralism of Prosocial Motives', *Psychological Inquiry*, 2, no. 2 (1991): 107-22. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1449242>
- BUTLER, Joseph, *Fifteen Sermons Preached at the Rolls Chapel and a Dissertation Upon the Nature of Virtue*, Sermons I, II, III & XI. Also available online at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/3150>. [Classic text]

- HILLS, Alison, *The Beloved Self* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 11-88; 233-249.
- RACHELS, James, 'Ethical Egoism', in R. Shafer-Landau, ed., *Ethical Theory: an Anthology* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007), pp. 213-20.
- RAWLS, John, 'Lecture IV: Butler's Argument against Egoism', in his *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007), pp. 439-46. Also available online at: <http://site.ebrary.com/lib/camuk/Doc?id=10318537>.
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- WILLIAMS, Bernard, 'The Amoralist', in his *Morality* (New York: Harper & Row, 1972), pp. 3-13. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107325869>.
- WILSON, David Sloan, and Elliott SOBER, 'Précis of Unto Others', *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 65, no. 3 (2002): 681-84. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3071140>

## Empathy

- GOLDMAN, Alvin, 'Empathy, Mind and Morals', *Proceedings and Addresses of the American Philosophical Association*, 66, no. 3 (1992): 17-41. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3130659>. Reprinted in M. Davies and T. Stone, eds., *Mental Simulation* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1995).
- PRINZ, Jesse, 'Is Empathy Necessary for Morality?', in P. Goldie and A. Coplan, eds., *Empathy: Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011), pp. 211-29. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199539956.003.0014>. [Especially sect. I.1]
- TOMASELLO, Michael, *Why We Cooperate* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2009). [Especially sect. I.1]

## Cognitive and Affective Attitudes

- \*HAIDT, Jonathan, *The Righteous Mind* (London: Allen Lane, 2012). [Especially Part I]
- BERKER, Selim, 'The Normative Insignificance of Neuroscience', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 37 (2009): 293-329. <http://doi.org/10.1111/j.1088-4963.2009.01164.x>
- GREENE, Joshua D., 'The Secret Joke of Kant's Soul', in W. Sinnott-Armstrong, ed., *Moral Psychology*. Vol. 3 (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2008), pp. 35-79. Available on Greene's website at: <http://www.joshua-greene.net/>.
- PRINZ, Jesse, *The Emotional Construction of Morals* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007). Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199571543.001.0001>. [Especially ch. 1]

## POLITICAL OBLIGATION AND AUTHORITY

### General

- KNOWLES, Dudley, *Political Obligation: A Critical Introduction* (London: Routledge, 2010), chs. 1, 2, 6 & 7. Also available online at: [www.dawsonera.com](http://www.dawsonera.com).
- WOLFF, Jonathan, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016), chs. 1 & 2.

### Classical Social Contract Theory

- \*HOBBS, Thomas, *Leviathan*. Various ed., chs. 13-18. Oxford World's Classics ed. available online at: [http://bit.ly/hobbes\\_lev](http://bit.ly/hobbes_lev).
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### Natural Duty and Fair Play Theory

- ARNESON, Richard, 'The Principle of Fairness and Free-Rider Problems', *Ethics*, 92 (1991-82): 616-33. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2380394>
- CULLITY, Garrett, 'Moral Free Riding', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 24, no. 1 (1995): 3-34. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2265437>
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## Anarchism

- CHOMSKY, Noam, 'Notes on Anarchism', in D. Guérin, ed., *Anarchism: From Theory to Practice* (New York, NY: Monthly Review Press, 1970). Also available online at: <http://www.chomsky.info/articles/1970----.htm>.
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## EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

### Varieties of Equality of Opportunity: Justification and Controversy

- \*RADCLIFFE-RICHARDS, Janet, 'Equality of Opportunity', *Ratio*, 10, no. 3 (1997): 253-79. <http://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9329.00044>
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- ARNESON, Richard J., 'Against Rawlsian Equality of Opportunity', *Philosophical Studies*, 93 (1999): 77-112. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4320904>
- BARRY, Brian, *Why Social Justice Matters* (Cambridge: Polity, 2005), Part II 'Equality of opportunity'.
- CAVANAGH, Matt, *Against Equality of Opportunity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).
- CHAMBERS, Clare, 'Each Outcome is Another Opportunity: Problems with the Moment of Equal Opportunity', *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*, 8, no. 4 (2009): 374-400. <http://doi.org/10.1177/1470594X09343066>
- DWORKIN, Ronald, *Sovereign Virtue* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000), chs. 11 & 12.
- FISHKIN, James S., *Justice, Equal Opportunity, and the Family* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1983), chs. 2 & 3.
- FREEMAN, Samuel, *Rawls* (London: Routledge, 2007), ch. 3, sect. 'Fair equality of opportunity'.

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- SCHAAR, John J., 'Equality of Opportunity, and Beyond', in J. Chapman and R. Pennock, eds., *Equality, Nomos 9* (New York: Atherton, 1967), pp. 228-49. Reprinted in L. Pojman and R. Westmoreland, eds., *Equality: Selected Readings* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997), pp. 137-47 (above).
- STARK, Cynthia, 'Luck, Opportunity and Disability', *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 16, no. 3 (2013): 393-402. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2013.795701>
- WILLIAMS, Bernard, 'The Idea of Equality', in P. Laslett and W.G. Runciman, eds., *Philosophy, Politics and Society* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1962), pp. 110-31. Reprinted in his *Problems of the Self* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1973), pp. 230-49, also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511621253.016>, and in L. Pojman and R. Westmoreland (above).

## Discrimination and Affirmative Action

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