

## **Kant's Ethics and Kantian Ethics**

### Part II Paper 3

Prof. Rae Langton

In this course we'll investigate Kant's moral philosophy, taking the *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* as our main text. We'll take a close look at some important themes: the motive of duty; freedom; the idea of human beings as 'ends in themselves'. We'll consider how the latter idea bears on the topic of conditioned and unconditioned goods, or (relatedly) intrinsic and extrinsic value. We'll consider Kant's approach to objectification, or treating people as things. The course provides an introduction to Kant's ethical thought, with attention to some questions of special contemporary interest.

### **Outline**

*Please note two postponed lectures*

1. 23 Jan. *Groundwork*, Preface and Section I.
2. 30 Jan. Section I contd.
3. 6 Feb. Section II.
  
- 13 Feb NO LECTURE
- 20 Feb NO LECTURE
  
4. 27 Feb. Section II contd.
5. 6 March. Section III.
6. 13 March. Section III contd.
7. Time TBA 14-16 March. Kant and Maria Herbert: lies, friendship, objectification
8. Time TBA 14-16 March. 'Ends in themselves' and unconditioned value

### **Main text**

Kant, Immanuel: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (1785), trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), introduction by Christine Korsgaard.

### **Other works by Kant**

*The Metaphysics of Morals* (1797), trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)

*Critique of Practical Reason* (1788), trans. Mary Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1997)

*Correspondence*, trans. and ed. Arnulf Zweig (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)

Kant, 'On a Supposed Right to Lie from Benevolent Motives'

### Some secondary readings

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*.

Baron, 'The Alleged Moral Repugnance of Acting from Duty', *J Phil* 81 (1984), 197-220

Guyer, Paul, *Kant on Freedom, Law and Happiness* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000)

Herman, Barbara. *The Practice of Moral Judgement* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1993)

— 'On the Value of Acting from the Motive of Duty'

Baron, Marcia. 'The Alleged Moral Repugnance of Acting from Duty'

Hill, Thomas, *Autonomy and Self-Respect* (Cambridge University Press, 1991)

Korsgaard, Christine, *Creating the Kingdom of Ends* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)

— *The Sources of Normativity* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996)

Langton, Rae, 'Duty and Desolation', *Philosophy* 67 (1992), 481-505

— 'Objective and Unconditioned Value', *Philosophical Review* 116 (2007), 157-185.

Mahon, James. 'Kant and Maria von Herbert: Reticence vs. Deception', *Philosophy* 2006.

Nussbaum, Martha, 'Objectification', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 24 (1995), 249-91.

O'Neill, Onora: *Constructions of Reason: Explorations of Kant's Practical Philosophy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989)

Sliwa, Paulina. 'Moral Worth and Moral Knowledge' (2016). *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 93 (2): 393-418.

Strawson, 'Freedom and Resentment'

Stocker, Michael, 'The Schizophrenia of Modern Ethical Theories', *Journal of Philosophy* 73 (1976) 453-66

Stratton-Lake, Philip, *Kant, Duty and Moral Worth* (Routledge, 2004)

Velleman, David, 'A Brief Introduction to Kantian Ethics', in *Self to Self* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), available at Velleman's website.

Weber, Michael, 'More on the Motive of Duty', *Journal of Ethics* 11 (2007)

Wood, Allen, *Kant's Ethical Thought* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)