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


Other works by Kant

*Correspondence*, trans. and ed. Arnulf Zweig (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)
Kant, ‘On a Supposed Right to Lie from Benevolent Motives’

Some secondary readings

— ‘On the Value of Acting from the Motive of Duty’
Baron, Marcia. ‘The Alleged Moral Repugnance of Acting from Duty’
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
Strawson, ‘Freedom and Resentment’