

**Part II Ethics
Realism and Irrealism
Course Outline**

Christopher Cowie
cdc33@cam.ac.uk

Week 1 - Error Theory and Disagreement

Reading: (1) MACKIE, J.L., *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, New York: Penguin (1977), Ch. 1; (2) Enoch, D., *Taking Morality Seriously: A Defense of Robust Moral Realism*, New York: OUP., (2011), Ch. 8.

Week 2 - The Queerness Argument

Reading: (1) SHAFER-LANDAU, R., *Moral Realism: A Defense*, New York: OUP, (2003), Ch. 4, (2) OLSON, J., *Moral Error Theory: History, Critique, Defence* Oxford: OUP, (2014), Chs. 5, 6, (3) Enoch, D., *Taking Morality Seriously: A Defense of Robust Moral Realism*, New York: OUP., (2011), Ch. 6.

Week 3 - Moral Naturalism (1): Non-Reductionism

Reading: (1) STURGEON, N., "Moral Explanations" in Copp and Zimmerman ed. *Morality, Reason, and Truth*, (1984), (2) MILLER, A. *An Introduction to Contemporary Metaethics*, Oxford: Polity (2008), Chs. 8-9.

Week 4 - Moral Naturalism (2): Reductionism

Reading: (1) MILLER, A. *An Introduction to Contemporary Metaethics*, Oxford: Polity (2008), Chs. 8-9, (2) SCHROEDER, 2007, *Slaves of the Passions*, Oxford: OUP, Ch. 4.

Week 5 - Moral Non-Naturalism (1): Metaphysics

Reading: (1) SHAFER-LANDAU, R., *Moral Realism: A Defense*, New York: OUP, (2003), Ch. 3, (2) PARFIT, D., *On What Matters*, Oxford: OUP, (2011) vol. 2., Chs 24-27, 31.

Week 6 - Moral Non-Naturalism (2): Epistemology

Reading: (1) SHAFER-LANDAU, R., *Moral Realism: A Defense*, New York: OUP, (2003), Chs 10-12, (2) Enoch, D., *Taking Morality Seriously: A Defense of Robust Moral Realism*, New York: OUP., (2011) Ch. 7.

Week 7 - Expressivism (1): A Defence

Reading: BLACKBURN, S. *Ruling Passions*, Oxford: OUP (1998) Chs 1-4, Appendix.

Week 8 - Expressivism (2): Is Quasi-Realism an Alternative to Realism?

Reading: (1) DREIER, J. 'Metaethics and the Problem of Creeping Minimalism', *Philosophical Perspectives* 18 (2004). (2) SCHROEDER, M. *Being For*, New York: Oxford.

Please email me for individual lecture handouts