

Morality and Value

21/22

Semester 1

The aim of this first-year course is to introduce students to some of the central problems and concepts in moral and political philosophy. The topics addressed in this course include moral theories (utilitarianism, Kantianism, virtue ethics), morality's limits and the justification of morality, moral responsibility in a morally imperfect world, equality, global poverty and hunger, the morality of markets, and immigration.

On completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. understand some of the main traditions and theories in moral and political philosophy
2. reconstruct an argument from a text, and do so in a way that balances charity of interpretation with fidelity to the text
3. engage critically with philosophical arguments
4. think creatively to develop their positive ideas in a rigorous philosophical manner, and
5. anticipate and respond to the best objections to your own ideas.

Course Organiser: Prof. Michael Cholbi [mcholbi@ed.ac.uk]

- Office hour: Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45, Dugald Stewart, 6.06 (these hours will be conducted in a hybrid format — additional details available on Learn)

Course Lecturer: Dr. Filipa Melo Lopes [Filipa.MeloLopes@ed.ac.uk]

- Office hour: Wednesday, 10-11, via Teams (link available on Learn)

Course Secretary: Vera Spiliotakou [philinfo@ed.ac.uk]

Schedule of Lecture Availability

Due to Covid-related social distancing restrictions, the lectures for this course will be provided to you as online recordings, available through Learn. These recordings will be accompanied by files containing the lecture slides or other materials. Starting Monday September 20, the lectures will be released to you according to the following pattern:

Mondays	9:00 AM
Wednesdays	9:00 AM
Fridays	9:00 AM

The full timetable for the course is available here:

https://www.ted.is.ed.ac.uk/UOE2122_SWS/TIMETABLE.ASP?OBJECTCLASS=MODULE&IDENTIFIER=PHIL08015_SV1_SEM1&STYLE=TEXTSPREADSHEET&TEMPLATE=SWSCUST+OBJECT+TEXTSPREADSHEET&WEEK=9-19

Lecture Topics and Readings

The topics and required readings for the course are listed below. All the course readings are available as electronic resources via the library resource list available here: <https://bit.ly/MVreading>

You are strongly urged to read the assigned material *prior to* watching the recorded lectures. It is not expected that you will grasp every detail or idea in the assigned readings — philosophy readings are often dense or difficult, particularly for newcomers to the discipline. The lectures will serve to clarify key issues in the readings but will also presuppose minimal familiarity with those readings.

Topic	Date	Topic	Required reading(s)	Lecturer
1	Sept 20	Course introduction; moral theorizing	None – but feel free to read ahead!	Cholbi
1	Sept 22	Utilitarianism in action	Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”	Cholbi
1	Sept 24	Kantianism in action	O’neill, “Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems”	Cholbi
1	Sept 27	Virtue ethics in action	Slote, “Famine, Affluence, and Virtue”	Melo Lopes
2	Sept 29	Utilitarianism 1: Understanding the theory	Eggleston, “Utilitarianism”, pp. 452-54 Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , chapter 1 and chapter 2 through ¶12 (“whole sentient creation”)	Cholbi
2	Oct 1	Utilitarianism 2: Well-being and the question of hedonism	Gregory, “Hedonism” Nozick, <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i> , pp. 42-45 (‘experience machine’)	Cholbi
2	Oct 4	Utilitarianism 3: Addressing its critics	Eggleston, “Utilitarianism,” pp. 456-57 Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , chapter 2, ¶13 to end of chapter	Cholbi
2, 3	Oct 6	Utilitarianism 4: Modifying classical utilitarianism Kantianism 1: Understanding the theory	Smart, “Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism” Turri, “Satisficing” Johnson & Cureton, “Kant’s moral philosophy,” through section 1	Cholbi
3	Oct 8	Kantianism 2: The arguments of Kant’s <i>Fundamental</i>	Kant, <i>Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , section 1	Cholbi

		<i>Principles</i>	Johnson & Cureton, “Kant’s moral philosophy,” sections 2-3	
3	Oct 11	Kantianism 3: Formulating the Categorical Imperative	Kant, <i>Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , section 2 Glasgow, “Kant’s Principle of Universal Law,” pp. 152-161 Johnson & Cureton, “Kant’s moral philosophy,” section 6	Cholbi
3	Oct 13	Kantianism 4: Addressing its critics	Glasgow, “Kant’s Principle of Universal Law,” pp. 162-65 Cholbi, <i>Understanding Kant’s Ethics</i> , section 7.3	Cholbi
4	Oct 15	Limits of morality: Friendship	Cocking & Kennett, “Friendship and Moral Danger”	Melo Lopes
4	Oct 18	Limits of morality: Moral saints	Wolf, “Moral Saints”	Melo Lopes
4	Oct 20	Limits of morality: Moral luck	Williams, “Moral Luck,” pp. 20-26. (Cambridge University Press Online Books version)	Melo Lopes
5	Oct 22	Virtue theory 1: Ethics and the good life	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , book I: chapters 1, 2, 4 and 7-9 (corresponds to pp. 1-7, 11-13, 25-47 in Loeb Classical Library Edition)	Melo Lopes
5	Oct 25	Virtue theory 2: What is virtue?	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , book II	Melo Lopes
5	Oct 27	Virtue ethics 3: Some problems for virtue ethics	Annas, “Applying Virtue to Ethics”	Melo Lopes
6	Oct 29	Responsibility in an imperfect world 1	Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”	Melo Lopes
6	Nov 1	Responsibility in an imperfect world 2	Lehmann, “The Accent of Her Ruby Lips”	Melo Lopes
6	Nov 3	Responsibility in an imperfect world 3	Young, “From Guilt to Solidarity: Sweatshops and Political Responsibility”	Melo Lopes
7	Nov 5	Immigration 1: The right to immigrate	Miller, “Immigration: The Case for Limits,” pp. 193-202 Huemer, “Is There A Right to Immigrate?,” through section 3	Cholbi
7	Nov 8	Immigration 2:	Wellman, “Immigration and	Cholbi

		National self-determination	Freedom of Association,” pp. 109-119 Huemer, “Is There a Right to Immigrate?”, section 4 and conclusion	
7	Nov 10	Immigration 3: Open borders and immigration in global context	Bregman and Manton, <i>Utopia for Realists</i> , chapter 9 (‘Beyond the Gates of the Land of Plenty’), pp. 203-215 Oberman, “Poverty and Immigration Policy”	Cholbi
8	Nov 12	Markets 1: Markets and morality	Sandel, “How Markets Crowd Out Morals” and replies by Allen, Satz and Anderson	Melo Lopes
8	Nov 15	Markets 2: Kidneys	Satz, “Ethical Issues in the Supply and Demand of Human Kidneys”	Melo Lopes
8	Nov 17	Markets 3: Surrogacy	Moody-Adams, “On Surrogacy: Morality, Markets, and Motherhood”	Melo Lopes
9	Nov 19	Equality 1: The basis of human equality	Carter, “Respect and the Basis of Equality” pp. 538-544 Sher, “Why We Are Moral Equals”	Cholbi
9	Nov 22	Equality 2: Egalitarianism in Rawls and after	Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (1999 revised edition), sections 1-5, 11, 17, 24-25 Dworkin, “What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources,” pp. 285-90, 292-304	Cholbi
9	Nov 24	Equality 3: Relational egalitarianism	Anderson, “What Is the Point of Equality?” pp. 288-292, 295-315	Cholbi
9	Nov 26	Equality 4: Objecting to inequality	T.M. Scanlon, “When Does Equality Matter?”	Cholbi
10	Nov 29	Why be moral 1: Hobbes on moral obligation	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Part I (Chapters 13-15)(you can skip sections from p. 136 “Covenants not discharged by the vice of the person to whom they are made” to p.146 “A rule, by which the Laws of Nature may easily be examined”)	Melo Lopes

10	Dec 1	Why be moral 2: Problems for Hobbes	Macaulay, "Loose remarks on certain positions to be found in Mr. Hobbes' Philosophical Rudiments of government and society," pp. 1-4.	Melo Lopes
10	Dec 3	Why be moral 3: Rousseau, morality, and human nature	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on the Origin and the Foundations of Inequality Among Mankind</i> , Part I (pp. 87-99, 104-108)	Melo Lopes

Notes on course readings

At the course resource list (<https://bit.ly/MVreading>), you will note that each topic entry is divided as follows:

- Lecture dates and topics, including the listing of assigned readings
- The assigned readings, marked 'Essential'
- A list of additional readings, marked 'Further readings'

In general, the emphasis in this course will fall on using a small number of relatively short texts to help students develop their skills in reading philosophical texts, especially challenging philosophical texts. The 'further readings' are *not* required readings, and it is not expected that you will discuss them in tutorials, cite them in your assessments, etc. This is not a course in which independent research is expected, and you should be able to succeed fully in the course without consulting the 'further readings.' The items marked 'Further readings' are therefore resources that, in your lecturers' opinion, offer additional insight into the course topics beyond those found in the assigned readings.

Learning beyond the lectures

Lecturer hour

Each Friday at 10 am beginning Sept 24, you are required to attend an online hour with your lecturers. This synchronous 'live' hour will take place via a Collaborate seminar (a function available on Learn). During this online hour, lecturers will address common questions or concerns about the course content, offer advice about how to succeed in the course, and provide additional insights into the philosophical disputes studied in the course.

Tutorials

In addition to three course lectures per week, each student will have a weekly tutorial. These give you a chance to investigate in greater depth topics and issues in the course. Tutorials will take place, at times and places to be arranged, during weeks 2 through 11 of the semester. You will be allocated a suitable tutorial group by the Timetabling Department based on your timetable. Should you wish to change the group you have been allocated to, you will need to fill in the *Tutorial Group Change form* on the Timetabling Department's webpage.

Attendance at tutorials is compulsory for all students on this course. The class tutor will maintain a register of attendance. Unexplained absences will be brought to the attention of your Personal Tutor. Please inform your tutor and the Teaching Office of

any absences. Students who miss tutorials may be required to do additional written work.

PhilSkills

The Department will be offering a series of workshops to assist pre-honours students in developing skills important to success in academic philosophy. These PhilSkills sessions will be held online on Fridays 1-2 pm, according to the following schedule:

- 24 Sept: Orientation to studying philosophy, lectures vs. tutorials, student and staff expectations, reading/understanding philosophy
- 8 Oct: Preparing to write your first philosophy essay
- 29 Oct: Extracting argument from texts, evaluating arguments
- 12 Nov: Working with essay drafts, revising techniques, learning from essay feedback

Additional information about accessing these sessions will be forwarded to you at a later date.

PPLS Skills Centre

PPLS has a Skills Centre that provides assistance to philosophy students with their academic work, including their written assessment. You are encouraged to make an appointment with Centre staff. More information here:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/philosophy/current/undergraduate/student-support/writing-and-skills-support>

Philosophy Society

The Edinburgh University Philosophy Society is a large, diverse, and a very active student group that organize a wide array of events for students, including academic support via PhilPALS. Please visit the Society website at <https://www.euphilsoc.com/>

Using Learn

You should regularly check your university email and check for announcements on the course Learn page. The Learn login page is here:

https://www.learn.ed.ac.uk/webapps/portal/execute/tabs/tabAction?tab_tab_group_id=611

The course Learn page will provide information concerning:

- General information and announcement about the course
- Lecture notes and slides
- Tutorial arrangements
- Information about assessment arrangements

Assessment

Your mark for this course will be determined by the following three components:

1. A single topic mid-term essay (1,500 words), due Tuesday, 19 October, 12 pm, via Turnitin on Learn. Further details regarding this essay assessment will be made available via Learn on 27 September. (25% of mark)
2. A multi-topic final assignment (3 responses of 1000 words each), due Tuesday, 7 December, 12 pm, via Turnitin on Learn. Further details regarding

this essay assessment will be made available via Learn on 1 November. (70% of mark)

3. Weekly quizzes, distributed each Wednesday, 12 noon via Learn and due midnight the next day (Thursday) via Learn. The first quiz will be distributed September 29, and there will be ten quizzes for the semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points in total. The quizzes will ask basic comprehension questions concerning the assigned readings. (5% of mark)

Resits of any course assessments will take place during the April/May resit diet.

Marking Schemes

You are strongly encouraged to become familiar with the marking guidelines the Philosophy Department uses to assess student work:

Grade-related marking guidelines for Philosophy

These are the guidelines that will be used to assess your work in this course and in all of your subsequent philosophy courses at Edinburgh. Learning how to produce work responsive to these guidelines is therefore crucial to your academic success over the coming years. We would also encourage you to use these as a diagnostic tool for your own work prior to submission, i.e., self-assessing your draft essays with reference to these guidelines.

For the University's general marking scheme go here: [Common Marking Scheme](#)

Exemplar essays

Anonymised exemplar essays will be on the Learn pages. These are essays written by past students that they have kindly agreed for us to use. We encourage you to read these essays in conjunction with the Philosophy-specific marking guidelines. In doing so think about the strengths and weaknesses of the essay, why the essays fell into their grade-band, and how they could have been improved.

There are many ways for an essay to fall into a particular grade-band. The Philosophy-specific marking guidelines provide explanation of the many, diverse, ways in which an essay can be a 1st, 2.i, 2.ii, and so on. The exemplar essays only show one way to achieve a certain grade; it is not the only way.

Visiting undergraduates

The assessment arrangements for visiting undergraduates are the same as for other students.

Getting in Touch

If you have a question

- regarding lecture content, you should ask it in your tutorial group and/or visit the relevant lecturer to discuss it during their office hour,
- regarding other academic matters related to the course, you should contact the Course Organiser
- regarding administrative course matters, you should contact the Course Secretary.