

Morality and Value (PHIL08015)

19/20

Semester 1

Course Organiser:

Dr Guy Fletcher

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Course Secretary:

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UG Teaching Office, G.06 Dugald Stewart Building

Lecture Times and Location

Monday	10:00 – 10:50	Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre
Wednesday	10:00 – 10:50	Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre
Friday	10:00 – 10:50	Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre

Lecture Topics and Readings

Week 1 - Introduction, Well-Being

Lecture 1 - Introduction to course

No specific reading. Take the time to read ahead.

Lecture 2 - Hedonism

- Gregory, A. 'Hedonism' in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being* (Routledge, 2015).

- Fletcher, G. *The Philosophy of Well-Being: an Introduction* (Routledge, 2016), chapter 1.

Lecture 3 - Desire-fulfillment theory

- Heathwood, C. 'Desire-fulfillment theory' in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being*.

- Fletcher, G. *The Philosophy of Well-Being: an Introduction*, chapter 2.

Week 2 - Well-Being

Lecture 1 - Objective List Theory

- Fletcher, G. 'Objective List Theories' in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being*.

- Fletcher, G. *The Philosophy of Well-Being: an Introduction*, chapter 3.

Lecture 2 - Perfectionism about well-being

- Bradford, G. 'Perfectionism' in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being*.
- Fletcher, G. *The Philosophy of Well-Being: an Introduction*, chapter 4.

Lecture 3 - Shape of a Life

- Fletcher, G. *The Philosophy of Well-Being: an Introduction*, chapter 7.
- Velleman, D. selection from his 'Well-Being and Time' (available as PDF on the LEARN page). (This is a difficult read so (i) skim read it first, to get the big picture, and then try to read it in depth after that and (ii) only read it *after* reading Fletcher's chapter 7.)

Week 3 — Consequentialism

Lecture 1 - Utilitarianism and Consequentialism

- Mill, J. S. *Utilitarianism*, chapters 1 & 2.
<http://www.utilitarianism.com/mill1.htm>

Lecture 2: - Arguments for and against Consequentialism

- Driver, J. 'Contemporary Consequentialism' in *Ethics: the Fundamentals* (Blackwell, 2007)
- Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, 'Consequentialism', (section 3 only)
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/conseque/#H3>

Lecture 3 - Making Consequentialism more Sophisticated

- §4 ('Which consequences...') of 'Consequentialism' in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism/>
- Hooker, B. 'Rule Consequentialism' in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism-rule>

Week 4 — Morality by Agreement

Lecture 1

- Thomas Hobbes: *Leviathan (1651)* Part I, Chapters 13-15.

Lecture 2

- Catharine Macaulay: *Loose remarks on certain positions to be found in Mr. Hobbes' Philosophical Rudiments of government and society (1767)*, pp. 1-9.

Lecture 3

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin and the Foundations of Inequality Among Mankind (1755)*, Part I (pp. 87-108). (PDF available on LEARN page).

Week 5 — Virtue Ethics

Lecture 1

- Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics (4th century B.C.)*, Book I, 1-4 and 7-9

Lecture 2

- Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book II

Lecture 3

- Julia Annas: 'Applying Virtue to Ethics' (2015), *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, Vol.32(1)

Optional Reading

Martha Nussbaum: 'Non-relative Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach' (1988)

Week 6 — Special Obligation

Lecture 1 - Friendship

- Dean Cocking & Jeanette Kennett: 'Friendship and Moral Danger' (2000), *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 97, No. 5.

Lecture 2 - Relationships and Morality

- Samuel Scheffler: 'Relationships and Responsibilities' in *Boundaries and Allegiances: Problems of Justice and Responsibility in Liberal Thought* (2002)

Lecture 3

- David Miller: 'Reasonable Partiality Towards Compatriots' (2004), *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol.8(1)

Optional Reading

Samuel Scheffler: 'Families, Nations, and Strangers' in *Boundaries and Allegiances: Problems of Justice and Responsibility in Liberal Thought* (2002)

Week 7 — Political Obligation

Lecture 1 - The Problem of Political Obligation (and some attempted solutions)

- Plato, *Crito*.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.1b.txt>

- Wolff, R. P. *In Defense of Anarchism*, (Chapter 1 only)

<http://theanarchistlibrary.org/library/robert-paul-wolff-in-defense-of-anarchism.pdf>

Lecture 2 - Consent Theories of Political Obligation

- Hume, D. 'Of The Original Contract' <http://www.constitution.org/dh/origcont.htm>

Lecture 3 - Fairness Theories of Political Obligation

- Simmons, A. J. 'The Principle of Fair Play', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 8 (1979): 307-337. [Reprinted in his *Justification and Legitimacy* (Cambridge: CUP, 2001).]

Optional readings (for the whole week)^[SEP] Locke, J. *Second Treatise of Government* §§95–131^[SEP] Pitkin, H. 'Obligation and Consent 1', *The American Political Science Review*, 59, (1965), 990-999.

- Gilbert, M. 'Group Membership and Political Obligation', *The Monist*, 76/1 (1993), 119–

131.^[SEP] Hart, H. L. A., 'Are There Any Natural Rights?' *Philosophical Review*, 64, (1955), 175–191.

- Green, L. 'Law and Obligations', in Coleman, J. & Shapiro, S. (eds.) *The Oxford handbook of jurisprudence and philosophy of law* (Oxford: OUP, 2002).

Week 8 — Consent and Sexual Ethics

Lecture 1 - Philosophical Problems with Sexual Consent

- David Archard: 'Sexual Consent' in *The Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Consent* (2018). (PDF available on LEARN page).

Lecture 2 - Consent and Equality

- Catharine A. Mackinnon: 'Rape Redefined' (2016), *Harvard Law & Policy Review*, Vol.10(2)

Optional Reading:

- Joseph J. Fischel, 'When Consent Isn't Sexy' and 'Kink and Cannibals' in *Screw Consent* (2019)

Lecture 3 - Desire and 'Unjust Sex'

- Ann J. Cahill: 'Recognition, Desire, and Unjust Sex' (2014), *Hypatia*, Vol.29(2)

Optional Reading

- Ann Cahill: 'Unjust Sex vs. Rape' (2016), *Hypatia*, Vol.31(4)

- Ellie Anderson: 'The Limits of Consent in Sexual Ethics' (2019), APA Blog, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2019/04/24/women-in-philosophy-the-limits-of-consent-in-sexual-ethics/>

Week 9 - The Moral Limits of Markets

Lecture 1 - Markets

- Michael J. Sandel: 'How Markets Crowd Out Morals' and Replies by Anita Allen, Debra Satz and Elizabeth Anderson (2012), *Boston Review* <http://bostonreview.net/forum-sandel-markets-morals>

Optional Reading

- Other Replies in *Boston Review*

- Jason Brennan and Peter M. Jaworski: 'Markets Without Symbolic Limits' (2015)

- Seung (Ginny) Choi and Virgil Henry Storr: 'Can Trust, Reciprocity and Friendship Survive Contact with the Market?' (2016)

Lecture 2 - Kidneys

- Debra Satz: 'Ethical Issues in the Supply and Demand of Human Kidneys' in *Why Some Things Should Not be for Sale* (2010)

Optional Reading

- Kaira Zoe K. Albuero: 'Kidneys for sale: regulating bodies through medical tourism in the Philippines' (2007)

- S. H. D.: 'Regulating the Sale of Human Organs' (1985)

Lecture 3 - Surrogacy

- Michele Moody-Adams: 'On Surrogacy: Morality, Markets, and Motherhood' (1991), *Public Affairs Quarterly*, Vol.5(2)

Optional Reading

- Debra Satz: 'Markets in Women's Reproductive Labor' in *Why Some Things Should Not be for Sale* (2010).

Week 10 - Populations and Extinction

Lecture 1 - The Non-Identity Problem

- Roberts, M. A. 'The Nonidentity Problem' in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nonidentity-problem/>

Lecture 2 - The Repugnant Conclusion

- Arrhenius, G. §1 of 'The Repugnant Conclusion' in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/repugnant-conclusion/>

Lecture 3 - Human Existence and Non-Existence

- *Benatar, D. chapter 5 'Death' in *The Human Predicament: A Candid Guide* (Oxford University Press).

Optional Reading

- Fletcher, G. *The Philosophy of Well-Being: an Introduction* (Routledge, 2016), chapter 8.

- Benatar, D. 'The Case for Not Being Born', *New Yorker*,
<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/persons-of-interest/the-case-for-not-being-born>

Lecture notes and other materials will be available on [Learn](#).

Further advice on Readings

Encyclopaedias are a very good source of extra reading. Avoid Wikipedia (it is often inaccurate on philosophy) but there are good internet encyclopaedias that can be useful:

[The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (SEP)

[The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) (IEP)

Websites

We also recommend the following as starting points for your research:

[PhilPapers](#)

[Philosophy Compass](#)

[The Diversity Reading List](#)

You will need to know how to track down sources, including electronic journals, using the library search engine [DiscoverED](#).

Tutorials

In addition to three course lectures per week, you will have weekly tutorials. These give you a chance to further discuss topics and issues in the course and its lectures.

Tutorials will take place, at times and places to be arranged, during weeks 2 through 11 of the semester.

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.

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 *Group Change Request Form* on the Timetabling Department's webpage. This form will be open until the end of Week 3 – if you wish to change groups after this time please contact the Teaching Office directly (philinfo@ed.ac.uk).

Please inform your tutor and the Teaching Office of any absences. Students who miss tutorials may be required to do additional written work.

Assessment

This course is assessed by a mid-term essay (25%) and a take-home test (75%).

Mid-term essay

The deadline for the midterm essay is by **12pm (mid-day), Tuesday 22nd October**.

You should submit your essay electronically via Turnitin on the Learn page. Please contact the Course Secretary if you are having problems uploading your essay.

The word count of your essay, including footnotes but excluding bibliography, must not exceed the specified word limit. The precise word count must be written on the coversheet. Overlong essays will be penalised according to the following rule: 1% of the maximum obtainable mark will be deducted for every 100 words, or part thereof, over the word limit. So, exceeding the word limit by 1-100 words incurs a deduction of 1%; exceeding by 101-200 words incurs a deduction of 2%; and so on.

Take-Home Test

The questions for the take-home test will be released by **9:30am on Monday 2nd December** and the deadline for submissions is by **12pm (mid-day), Thursday 5th December**.

There are no extensions for take-home tests and no requests for extensions will be accepted. Late penalties for take-home tests will be calculated from the date a test is due. Students with learning profiles from the Student Disability Service that grant 25% or 33% extra time on exams will have one additional day in which to complete a take-home test. For example, a take-home test released on Monday and due on Thursday at mid-day, would be due on Friday at mid-day for a student with the learning profile described.

The questions will be released via the Learn page and you should submit your take-home test via the appropriate Turnitin submission box. Please contact the Course Secretary in the Teaching Office if you are having problems uploading your essay.

The word count of your essay, including footnotes but excluding bibliography, must not exceed the specified word limit. The precise word count must be written on the coversheet. Overlong essays will be penalised according to the following rule: 1% of the maximum obtainable mark will be deducted for every 100 words, or part thereof, over the word limit. So, exceeding the word limit by 1-100 words incurs a deduction of 1%; exceeding by 101-200 words incurs a deduction of 2%; and so on.

Resit

The resit for this course is a take-home test worth 100%. This will take place in the April/May exam diet. Students will be informed of the exact dates closer to the time.

Visiting undergraduates

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

Mark Schemes

For Philosophy-specific marking guidelines go here:

[Grade-related marking guidelines for Philosophy](#)

For the University's general marking scheme go here:

[Common Marking Scheme](#)

Learning Resources

Learn

You should regularly check your university email and check for announcements on the course *Learn* page.

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

University of Edinburgh Library

The library's hard-copy and online resources can be searched online via *DiscoverEd*.

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.

Autonomous Learning Groups

Each course has dedicated Autonomous Learning Groups. It is up to you, the members of the ALG, to organise the meetings. You decide how often to meet and what to do in your ALG. ALGs are designed to help you learn and get to know your classmates; they are not a formal requirement of the course. It is important to note that assessment in your courses is non-competitive: you aren't competing against your classmates, only against the general grade criteria. It is in your interests to help each other.

You could use ALG meetings to:

- Read and discuss the papers together
- Discuss essay-writing and time-management techniques
- Constructively critique draft essays or plans
- Work on presentations or discussion posts that the class may involve
- Share tips on career advice

Please email the Course Organiser if you feel that it would be useful for the group if they joined one of your sessions. Please contact the course secretary if you find it necessary during the semester to transfer into a different group.

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.

For other specifically academic matters you can contact the Course Organiser.

If you have questions not specifically about lecture content, you should contact the Course Secretary.

Prizes

Students who perform with excellence in Morality and Value are eligible for the James Seth Prize.

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