

PHIL 260; Spring Quarter 2007
 The Normativity of Ethics
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 Syllabus

This is a list of possible topics and readings, which we can, and may need to, adapt to our interests and progress. Required readings are drawn from the required texts and from additional material that will be available on reserve. Where possible, required readings not in the required texts will be available as electronic reserves [ER] on the course website; otherwise, they will be available as hard reserves [HR] in the Philosophy Library (H&SS 8025). Readings are either (A) required or (B) recommended. Within a topic, do the (required) readings in the order in which they are listed. Especially recommended readings are indicated with an asterisk. Full references can be found on the Bibliography. If you have trouble locating recommended readings, let me know, as I may be able to help (e.g. lend a copy).

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

- (B) See Course Description.

Week 2: Moral Motivation and Expressivism

- A Puzzle about Moral Motivation
 - (A) Smith, The Moral Problem, ch. 1; Brink, "Moral Motivation" [ER]
- An Expressivist Solution
 - (A) Stevenson, "The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms" [ER]; Smith, The Moral Problem, ch. 2; Brink, "Moral Motivation" [ER]
 - (B) *Gibbard, Thinking How to Live, esp. ch. 3 [HR]; Blackburn, Spreading the Word, pp. 186-96 and "Attitudes and Contents"; Hale, "Can There Be a Logic of the Attitudes?"

Week 3: Moral Motivation and Motivational Rationalism

- (A) Smith, The Moral Problem, chs. 4-6; Nagel, The Possibility of Altruism, esp. chs. I-IX; McDowell, "Virtue and Reason" [HR]; Brink, "Moral Motivation" [ER].
- (B) McNaughton, Moral Vision; Svavarsdóttir, "Moral Cognitivism and Motivation".

Week 4: Moral Motivation and Externalism

- (A) Foot, "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives" [ER]; Smith, The Moral Problem, ch. 3; Brink, "Moral Motivation" [ER].

Week 5: Normative Authority: Error Theories, Relativism, Minimalism, and Strategic Egoism

- A Puzzle about the Authority of Morality
- Error Theories and Relativism
 - (A) Mackie, Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong, ch. 1 [HR]; Harman, "Moral Relativism Defended" [ER].
 - (B) Firth, "Ethical Absolutism and the Ideal Observer Theory"; Smith, The Moral Problem, chs. 5-6; and *Railton, "Facts and Values" [HR].
- Minimalism
 - (A) Plato, Gorgias, esp. 481b-509a [HR]
- Strategic Egoism
 - (A) Plato, Republic 357a-368b [HR].
 - (B) Epicurus, Kuriai Doxa 31-40; Hobbes, Leviathan, chs. 13-15; *Gauthier, Morals by Agreement, esp. chs. I-VI.

Week 6: Normative Authority and Anti-Rationalism

- (A) Foot, "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives" [ER]; Williams, "Internal and External Reasons" [HR]; Korsgaard, "Skepticism about Practical Reason" [ER].
- (B) *Parfit, Reasons and Persons, §§45-50; *Brink, "Kantian Rationalism: Inescapability, Authority, and Supremacy" [HR]; *Railton, "Facts and Values" [HR]; McDowell, "Values and Secondary Qualities" [HR]; *Wiggins, "A Sensible Subjectivism?"; *Brink, "The Significance of Desire" [ER].

Week 7: Normative Authority and Nagelian Rationalism

- (A) Nagel, The Possibility of Altruism, esp. chs. I-XII.
- (B) Sturgeon, "Altruism, Solipsism, and the Objectivity of Reasons"; Darwall, Impartial Reason, ch. 10.

Week 8: Normative Authority and Kantian Rationalism

- (A) Kant, Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, esp. sections I-II.
- (B) Brink, "Kantian Rationalism: Inescapability, Authority, and Supremacy" [HR].

Week 9: Normative Authority and Korsgaardian Rationalism

- (A) Korsgaard, The Sources of Normativity, chs. 1-4.
- (B) The Sources of Normativity, chs. 5-9.

Week 10: Normative Authority and Metaphysical Egoism

- (A) Brink, "Self-Love and Altruism" [HR].
- (B) *Parfit, Reasons and Persons, part III.