

Ethics Reading List

Adrian Kreutz
New College, University of Oxford
adrian.kreutz@politics.ox.ac.uk

Departmental Reading List

<https://users.ox.ac.uk/~linc2817/103%20Ethics%20Nov%202009.pdf>

Preliminary Reading

John Mackie, *Ethics* (Penguin, 1990; Ch. 1-2)

Bernard Williams, *Morality* (Oxford University Press, 1995)

*

1st Week: Consequentialism

Essay Question: Is there a difference between act-utilitarianism and rule-consequentialism?

R: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, *Consequentialism* (Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, 2019); Julia Driver, *Consequentialism* (Routledge, 2012); Bernard Williams, *Utilitarianism and moral self-indulgence* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)

2nd Week: Consequentialism

Essay Question: Does consequentialism demand too much of moral actors?

Reading: Sam Scheffler, *The Rejection of Consequentialism* (Oxford University Press, 1994); Bernard Williams, A Critique of Utilitarianism, in J. J. C. Smart and Bernard Williams *Utilitarianism: For and Against* (Cambridge University Press, 1973)

3rd Week: Kantianism

Essay Question: Are there ways to escape the universalizability principle without negating the universalizability principle?

Primary Reading: Kant, *Groundwork to the Metaphysics of Morals*

Secondary Reading: Roger Scruton, *Kant* (Oxford University Press, 2001); Allen Wood, *Kant's Ethical Thought* (Cambridge University Press, 1999: Introduction); Thomas Hill, Jr., *The Blackwell Guide to Kant* (Blackwell, 2009)

4th Week: Kantianism

Essay Question: Treating humanity always as an end in itself and never as a mere means; is this a moral or political requirement?

Primary Reading: Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason; Critique of Pure Reason* (3rd Antinomy)

Secondary Reading: Charles Mills, *Black Radical Kantianism* (Res Philosophica, 2018); Bernard Williams, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy* (Harvard University Press, 1986; Ch.5, 10); Christine Korsgaard, *Kant's Analysis of Obligation: The Argument of Foundations I* (The Monist, 1989)

5th Week: Metaethics I (Realism)

Essay Question: What makes a true moral claim true?

Primary Reading: M. Smith 'Moral Realism' in H. LaFollette: *The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory*, 2000; R. Shafer-Landau 'Ethics as Philosophy: A Defense of Ethical Nonnaturalism' In Shafer-Landau (ed) *Ethical Theory: An Anthology*, 2007.

Secondary Reading: R. Wedgwood, 'The Meaning of "Ought"', *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, 2006.
Further Remark: Please get yourself acquainted with the terminology: realism, naturalism, subjectivism, relativism, cognitivism, error-theory and the anti-realism/non-naturalism or subjectivism/relativism distinctions. I suggest browsing the *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy* (see week 6 and 7).

6th Week: Metaethics II (Intuitionism)

Essay Question: What is obvious to *me* might not be obvious to *you* – is that a problem for Intuitionism?

Primary Reading: Alexander Miller, 'Contemporary Metaethics', 2014 (Chapter 2); G.E., Moore, *Principia Ethica*, 1903. Jonathan Dancy, 'Intuitionism', In Peter Singer (ed.) *A Companion to Ethics*, 1991: <https://dorshon.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/A-Companion-to-Ethics.pdf>; Philip Stratton-Lake, 'Intuitionism in Ethics', In *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, 2020: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/intuitionism-ethics/>; Bernard Williams, 'What does Intuitionism Imply?', In *Making Sense of Humanity: And Other Philosophical Papers 1982–1993*, 2010.
Secondary Reading: Iris Murdoch, 'Metaphysics and Ethics' & 'The Idea of Perfection' In Peter Conradi (ed.), *Existentialists and Mystics*, 1997.

7th Week: Metaethics III (Emotivism)

Essay Question: What, if there are any, are the limits to describing the moral universe in terms of approval/disapproval?

Primary Reading: Mark van Roojen, 'Moral Cognitivism vs. Moral-Noncognitivism', in *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*, 2018: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-cognitivism/>; Alexander Miller, 'Contemporary Metaethics', 2014 (Chapter 3); A.J., Ayer, *Language, Truth and Logic*, 1952; Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, 1981 (Chapters 1-3).

Secondary Reading: Bernard Williams, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, Chapter 8; Michael Ridge, *Impassioned Belief*, 2014 (Introduction).

8th Week: Ways of Doing Ethics I (Existentialism)

Essay Question: What is the 'ethical good' of an existentialist, and how does it differ from the theories we have discussed so far?

Primary Reading: Jean Paul Sartre, 'Existentialism and Humanism', Methuen Publishing Ltd; New edition, 2007; Mary Warnock, 'Existentialism', 1970; Simone DeBeauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*, 2015; David E. Cooper, 'Existentialist Ethics', *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 1998; <https://www.rep.routledge.com/articles/thematic/existentialist-ethics/v-1>.

9th Week: Ways of Doing Ethics II (Feminism)

Essay Question: How can we criticise deontological and consequentialist theories through a feminist lense?

Primary Reading: Kathryn Norlock, 'Feminist Ethics', In *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-ethics/>; Lindemann, Hilde (ed.), 'An Invitation to

Feminist Ethics', 2005; Ann Cudd, "Analytic Feminism: A Brief Introduction," *Hypatia*, Vol. 10, No. 3, Analytic Feminism, pp. 1-6, 1995; John S. Mill, 'Three Essays: On Liberty, Representative Government, The Subjection of Women', R. Wollheim (ed.), Oxford University Press, 1987 [1869] Secondary Reading: Lorde, Audre, 1984, 'Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference', *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, Berkeley: Crossing Press; Annette Baier, 'What Do Women Want in a Moral Theory?', In *Nous* 19:1, pp.53-63, 1985; Iris Marion Young, 'The Five Faces of Oppression': <http://www.racialequitytools.org/resourcefiles/young.pdf>

10th Week: Ways of *Doing* Ethics III (Animal Ethics)

Essay Question: What Does Kant say about harm done to non-human animals? And how would a Kantian approach to Animal Ethics change if there are no morally salient properties different between human and non-human animals?

Primary Reading: Peter Singer, 'Animal Liberation', 1975; Horta, O. (2014): "The Scope of the Argument from Species Overlap". In *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, Vol. 31(1):142-154, 2014; Norcross, A. (2004): "Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases". In *Philosophical Perspectives*, Vol. 18(1):292-245, 2004. Lori Gruen, 'The Moral Status of Animals', In *Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-animal/>

Secondary Reading: Cora Diamond, 'Eating Meat and Eating People', *Philosophy* Vol. 53, No. 206, 1978), pp. 465-479.