

YORK UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE PROGRAM IN PHILOSOPHY
CORE PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY I: PHILOSOPHY 5802 3.0

Fall 2009:

Friday 11am-1pm, 2pm-3pm

Prof. A. MacLachlan

S418 Ross amacla@yorku.ca
(416) 736-2100 x77587

Prof. R. Myers

S431 Ross rmyers@yorku.ca
(416) 736-2100 x77575

This course offers an advanced survey of some central themes in contemporary practical philosophy, drawn from recent work in metaethics, ethical theory, political philosophy and the philosophy of law. While it is designed to provide background for those who will be pursuing graduate-level research in these areas, it is not an introductory course. (Those who do not have some undergraduate preparation in these areas are advised to discuss remedial work with the course directors as soon as possible.)

Requirements and Evaluation

Everyone is required to complete the required readings and essays and participate in seminar discussions. Evaluation is on the following basis:

Weekly Comments and Class Participation: 25%
Three short essays (approx. 3000 words each): 75%

Comments and Participation (25%)

Before *noon of the Thursday* preceding each class, you must each email to *both* of us a comment, no more than one double-spaced page in length, on *any one* claim or argument drawn from that week's required readings. Your comments will form the basis of our weekly discussions and will be assessed for your class participation grade, provided that you are present in the seminar on the relevant day. You may without penalty take two 'passes' and email us no comment for that week; you must however email us before the Thursday deadline to say that you are taking a pass.

First Short Essay (25%), due October 9, 11am

The topic must be on ethical theory.

Second Short Essay (25%), due November 13, 11am

The topic must be on metaethics.

Third Short Essay (25%), due December 11, 11am

The topic must be on political philosophy.

You are expected to consult the listed further readings in preparing for your essays and exam .

Late Penalties:

Weekly comments are not accepted late. Other work may be accepted late at the discretion of the Course Directors and subject to a penalty.

Readings:

All required readings are shown on the bibliography which follows. They are available from both electronic and traditional sources.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The required readings for each meeting are shown below in boldface. In preparation of your essays, and for the comprehensive examination for those in 5803, you should also sample some of the further recommended readings and read broadly in the field.

Good general reference works are the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (available online through the York library site) and the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (available online at <http://plato.stanford.edu>). For a reliable short dictionary, see Simon Blackburn, ed., *Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*.

1. Consequentialism and Worries about Demands (Sept 18)

4802/5802 readings:

Williams, B. (1973). ‘A Critique of Utilitarianism.’ In *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, ed. J.J.C. Smart and B. Williams. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Railton, P. (1984). ‘Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality.’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 13, 134-171.

5803 readings:

Murphy, L. (1993). ‘The Demands of Beneficence’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 22, 267-292.

Further Recommended Readings:

Hooker, B. (2000). *Ideal Code, Real World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kagan, S. (1989). *The Limits of Morality*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Murphy, L. (2000). *Moral Demands in Nonideal Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Scheffler, S. (1982). *The Rejection of Consequentialism*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

2. Consequentialism and Worries about Rights (Sept 25)

4802/5802 readings:

Nagel, T. (1972). ‘War and Massacre’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1, 123-144.

Foot, P. (1985). ‘Utilitarianism and the Virtues.’ *Mind* 94, 196-209.

5803 readings:

Scheffler, S. (1984). ‘Agent-Centred Restrictions, Rationality and the Virtues.’ *Mind* 94, 409-419.

Further Recommended Readings:

Kagan, S. (1989). *The Limits of Morality*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Myers, R. (1999). *Self-Governance and Cooperation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Nagel, T. (1986). *The View from Nowhere*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, Ch. 8-10.

Scheffler, S. (1982). *The Rejection of Consequentialism*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

3. Contractarianism and Contractualism (Oct 2)

4802/5802 readings:

Gauthier, D. (1991). ‘Why Contractarianism?’ In *Contractarianism and Rational Choice*, ed. P. Vallentyne. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Scanlon, T.M. (1982). ‘Contractualism and Utilitarianism.’ In *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, ed. A. Sen and B. Williams. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

5803 readings:

Kumar, R. (2003). ‘Reasonable Reasons in Contractualist Moral Argument.’ *Ethics* 114, 6-37.

Further Recommended Readings:

Dimock, S. (2008). ‘Why All Feminists Should be Contractarians.’ *Dialogue*, 47: 273-290.

Gauthier, D. (1986). *Morals by Agreement*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Scanlon, T.M. (1998). *What We Owe to Each Other*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Stratton-Lake P., ed. (2004). *On What We Owe to Each Other*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

4. Reasons and Motives (Oct 9)

4802/5802 readings:

Williams, B. (1980). ‘Internal and External Reasons.’ Reprinted in his *Moral Luck*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Korsgaard, C. (1986). ‘Skepticism about Practical Reason.’ *Journal of Philosophy* 83, 5-25.

5803 readings:

McDowell, J. ‘Might There Be External Reasons?’ Reprinted in his *Mind, Value, Reality*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998.

Further Recommended Readings:

Schueler, G.F. (2003). *Reasons and Purposes*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Smith, M. (1994). *The Moral Problem*. Oxford: Blackwell.

McDowell, J. (1998) *Mind, Value, Reality*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Williams, B. (1985). *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

5. Moral Metaphysics: Realism, Constructivism and Expressivism (Oct 23)

4802/5802 readings:

Railton, P. (1986). ‘Moral Realism.’ *Philosophical Review* 95, 163-207.

Fitzpatrick, W. (2005). ‘The Practical Turn in Ethical Theory: Korsgaard’s Constructivism, Realism, and the Nature of Normativity.’ *Ethics* 115, 651-91.

5803 readings:

Dreier, J. (1990). 'Internalism and Speaker Relativism.' *Ethics* 101, 6-26.

Further Recommended Readings:

Blackburn, S. (1998). *Ruling Passions*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Brink, D. (1989). *Moral Realism and the Foundations of Ethics*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Korsgaard, C. (1996). *The Sources of Normativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Shafer-Landau, R. (2003). *Moral Realism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

6. Alternative Approaches: Particularism, Virtue and Responsibility (Oct 30)

4802/5802 readings:

McDowell, J. (1979). 'Virtue and Reason.' *The Monist* 62, 331-350.

Walker, M. U. (2007). 'Authority and Transparency: The Example of Feminist Skepticism.' *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 55-106.

5803 readings:

Dancy, J. (2000). 'The Particularist's Progress.' In *Moral Particularism*, ed. B. Hooker and M. Little. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Further Recommended Readings:

Anscombe, E. (1958) "Modern Moral Philosophy", *Philosophy* 33: 124, pp. 1-19.

Hooker, B. and Little, M., eds. (2000). *Moral Particularism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

McDowell, J. (1998). *Mind, Value, Reality*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Walker, M. U. (2007). *Moral Understandings: A Feminist Study in Ethics* 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

7. Liberty (Nov 6)

4802/5802 readings:

Berlin, I. (1969). 'Two Concepts of Liberty.' in his *Four Essays on Liberty*, London: Oxford University Press.

Taylor, C. (1979). 'What's Wrong With Negative Liberty?' in A. Ryan, ed. *The Idea of Freedom*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

5803 readings:

Friedman, M. (1997). 'Autonomy and Social Relationships,' in *Feminists Rethink the Self*, D. Meyers, ed. (Westview), pp. 40-61.

Further Recommended Readings:

Benn, S.I. and Weinstein, W.L. (1971). 'Being free to act and being a free man', *Mind* 80 (repr.

In Flathman R., ed. *Concepts in Social and Political Philosophy* (1973).
 Cohen, G.A. (1988). *History, Labour, and Freedom*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Ch. 14.
 Nelson, E. (2005). 'Liberty: One Concept Too Many?' *Political Theory* 33, 58-78.
 Raz, J. (1986). *The Morality of Freedom*. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Ch. 14.

8. Equality and Justice (Nov 13)

4802/5802 readings:

Rawls, J. (1971). *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge MA: Belknap Press, secs. 11-13, 26, 29.
Nozick, R. (1973). 'Distributive Justice.' *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 3, 45-126.
 (Reprinted, slightly modified, as ch. 7 of *Anarchy State and Utopia*, NY: Basic Books, 1975).

5803 readings:

Frankfurt, H. (1987). 'Equality as a Moral Ideal,' *Ethics* 98, 21-42.

Further Recommended Readings:

Anderson, E. (1999). 'What is the Point of Equality?' *Ethics* 109, 287-337.
 Cohen, G.A. (1989). 'On the currency of egalitarian justice.' *Ethics* 99, 906-44.
 Rawls, J. (1971) *A Theory of Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press.
 Sen, A. (1980). 'Equality of what?' *The Tanner Lectures on Human Values I*, reprinted as Ch. 16 of *Choice, Welfare and Measurement*, 1982.

9. Critical Approaches to Justice (Nov 20)

4802/5802 readings:

Young, I. (1990). *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Ch 4.
Fraser, N. (1997). "From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Postsocialist' Age", *Justice Interruptus: Critical Reflections on the "Postsocialist" Condition*. New York: Routledge, Ch 1.

5803 readings:

Okin, Susan Moller. (1987). "Justice and Gender", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 16, 42-72.

Further Recommended Readings:

Kittay, E. F. (1990). "Political Liberalism and Human Dependency," *Love's Labor: Essays on Women, Equality and Dependency*. New York: Routledge.
 Mills, C. (1999). *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 Okin, S. M. (1989). *Justice, Gender and the Family*. New York: Basic Books.
 Wong, S. I. "Justice and Cognitive Disabilities: Specifying the Problem." *Essays in Philosophy*, 9:1 (2008) (<http://www.humboldt.edu/~essays/wong.html>).
 Young, I. (1990) *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

10. International Justice (Nov 27)

4802/5802 readings:

Beitz, C. (1975). ‘Justice and International Relations.’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 4, 360-89.

Blake, M. (2002). ‘Distributive Justice, State Coercion, and Autonomy.’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 30, 257-296.

5803 readings:

Nagel, T. (2005). ‘The Problem of Global Justice.’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 33, 113-47.

Further Recommended Readings:

Cohen, J. and Sabel, C. (2006). ‘Extra Rempublicam Nulla Justitia?’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 34, 147-175.

Julius, A. J. (2006). ‘Nagel’s Atlas.’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 34, 176-193.

Buchanan, A. (2004) *Justice, Legitimacy, and Self-Determination* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

11. Punishment (Dec 4)

4802/5802 readings:

J. Murphy, (1994). ‘Marxism and Retribution,’ *A Reader on Punishment*, A. Duff and D. Garland, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

J. Hampton, (1984). ‘The Moral Education Theory of Punishment,’ *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 13, 208-238.

5803 readings:

M. Moore, (1987). ‘The Moral Value of Retribution,’ *Responsibility, Character and the Emotions: New Essays in Moral Psychology*, F. Schoeman, ed. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: pp.178-219.

Further Recommended Readings:

Duff, A. and Garland, d., eds. (1994). *A Reader on Punishment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Golash, D. (1994). ‘The Retributive Paradox,’ *Analysis* 54:72.

Hart, H.L.A. (1968). *Punishment and Responsibility: Essays in the Philosophy of Law*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.