

Morality and Value (PHIL08015)

20/21 Semester 1

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Lecture Times

Monday	10:00 – 10:50	Released Online
Wednesday	10:00 – 10:50	Released Online
Friday	10:00 – 10:50	Released Online

Lecture Topics and Readings

The lectures will be delivered by the course organizer Dr. Filipa Melo Lopes = FML and Dr. Michael Cholbi = MC.

Week 1 – Introduction; Utilitarianism; Hedonism

Lecture 1 (FML) - Introduction

No specific reading. Take the time to read ahead.

Lecture 2 (MC) - Introducing utilitarianism

- Ben Eggleston, 'Utilitarianism' in Chadwick, R. *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*, 2nd edition (Elsevier, 2012) pp. 452-54
- J.S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 1 and chapter 2 through ¶12 (“whole sentient creation”)

Lecture 3 (MC) - The question of well-being: Hedonism

- Alex Gregory, 'Hedonism' in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being* (Routledge, 2015)
- Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Blackwell, 1974) pp. 42-45 ('Experience machine' section)

Week 2 - Utilitarianism; Introducing Kantianism

Lecture 1 (MC) - Defending utilitarianism against its critics

- Ben Eggleston, 'Utilitarianism' in Chadwick, R. *Encyclopedia of Applied Ethics*, 2nd edition (Elsevier, 2012) pp. 456-57
- J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 2, ¶13 to end of chapter 2
- William Haines, Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, 'Consequentialism', (section 3 only) <https://www.iep.utm.edu/conseque/#H3>

Lecture 2 (MC) - Modifying the utilitarian picture

- J.J.C. Smart, 'Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism' (1956), *The Philosophical Quarterly*, 6(25) pp.344–354
- John Turri, 'Satisficing' in *Encyclopedia of utilitarianism* (Bloomsbury, 2013)

Lecture 3 (MC) - Introducing Kantian ethics: The categorical imperative

- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, sections 1 and 2 <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5682/5682-h/5682-h.htm>
- [Optional: Michael Cholbi, *Understanding Kant's Ethics* (Cambridge 2016), chapter 1]

Week 3 - Kantianism; Introducing Virtue Ethics

Lecture 1 (MC) - Universalization and ends in themselves

- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, sections 1 and 2 (Do a second careful read to reconstruct Kant's reasoning and identify objections) <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/5682/5682-h/5682-h.htm>
- [Optional: Michael Cholbi, *Understanding Kant's Ethics* (Cambridge 2016) chapters 2 and 3]

Lecture 2 (MC) - Some perennial objections to Kant's ethics

- Michael Cholbi, *Understanding Kant's Ethics* (Cambridge 2016) sections 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.5, 8.6
- [Optional: Philippa Foot, 'Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives' in *Virtues and Vices* (Oxford University Press, 2002)]

Lecture 3 (FML) - Ethics and the Good Life

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I, 1-4 and 7-9
- [Optional: Roy W. Perrett & John Patterson, 'Virtue Ethics and Maori Ethics,' (1991) *Philosophy East and West*, 41(2), pp. 185–202]
- [Optional: David Wong, 'Chinese Ethics - 2.1 Virtue ethics: the dao, the junzi, and ren,' *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-chinese/#VirEthDaoJunRen>]

Week 4 - Virtue Ethics

Lecture 1 (MC)- The question of well-being: Perfectionism

- Gwen Bradford, 'Perfectionism' in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being* (Routledge, 2015)

Lecture 2 (FML) - What is Virtue

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book II

Lecture 3 (FML) - Problems for Virtue Ethics

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

- [Optional: Martha Nussbaum, 'Non-Relative Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach' (1988). *Midwest Studies In Philosophy*, 13(1), pp.32–53.]

Week 5 - The Limits of Morality

Lecture 1 (FML) - Morality vs. Friendship

- Dean Cocking & Jeanette Kennett, 'Friendship and Moral Danger' (2000), *The Journal of Philosophy*, 97(5)

Lecture 2 (FML) - Moral Saints

- Susan Wolf, 'Moral Saints' (1982), *The Journal of Philosophy*, 79(8)

Lecture 3 (FML) - Moral Luck

- Bernard Williams, 'Moral Luck' in *Moral luck philosophical papers 1973-1980* (Cambridge, 1981)

Week 6 - Why be moral?

Lecture 1 (FML) - Hobbes on moral obligation

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part I, Chapters 13-15.

Lecture 2 (FML) - Problems for Hobbes

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

Lecture 3 (FML) - Rousseau, Morality & Human Nature

- Jean-Jacques Rousseau: *Discourse on the Origin and the Foundations of Inequality Among Mankind*, Part I, pp. 87-99, 104-108

Week 7 - Immigration

Lecture 1 (MC) - The Right to Immigrate

- David Miller, 'Immigration: The Case for Limits.' in Cohen, A. I. & Wellman, C.H., *Contemporary Debates in Applied Ethics* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2005) pp. 193-202
- Michael Huemer, 'Is There A Right to Immigrate?' (2010), *Social Theory and Practice*, 36(3), through section 3
- [Optional: Anna Stilz, 'Is There an Unqualified Right to Leave?' in *Migration in Political Theory* (Oxford 2016)]
- [Optional: Christopher Wellman, 'Immigration,' *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/immigration/> through section 1.5]

Lecture 2 (MC) - Immigration and national self-determination

- Christopher Heath Wellman, 'Immigration and Freedom of Association' (2008), *Ethics*, 119 (1), pp. 109-119
- Michael Huemer, 'Is There A Right to Immigrate?' (2010), *Social Theory and Practice*, 36(3), section 4 and conclusion

Lecture 3 (MC)- Global economic justice: immigration criteria versus open borders

- Joseph Carens, 'An Overview of the Ethics of Immigration' (2014), *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 17(5), pp.538–559
- Bregman, R. & Manton, E., *Utopia for realists*. Chapter 9 'Beyond the Gates of the Land of Plenty', pp. 203-215

- [Optional: Gillian Brock, 'Immigration and Global Justice' (2010) *Etica & Politica / Ethics & Politics*, XII (1), pp. 362–376
- [Optional: Ayelet Shachar, 'Selecting By Merit: The Brave New World of Stratified Mobility' in *Migration in Political Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2016) Chapter 9]
- [Optional: Wellman, 'Immigration,' *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/immigration/> section 3]

Week 8 - Sexual Ethics

Lecture 1 (FML) - Philosophical Problems with Sexual Consent

- David Archard, 'Sexual Consent' in *The Routledge Handbook of the Ethics of Consent* (Routledge, 2018).

Lecture 2 (FML) - Interrogating Consent

- Joseph J. Fischel, 'When Consent Isn't Sexy' in *Screw Consent* (University of California Press, 2019) pages 1-5; 11-21
- [Optional: Catharine A. Mackinnon, 'Rape Redefined' (2016), *Harvard Law & Policy Review*, 10(2)]

Lecture 3 (FML) - Sexual Subjectivity

- Linda Martín Alcoff, 'Sexual Subjectivity' in *Rape and Resistance* (Cambridge, 2018)
- [Optional: 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 (FML) - 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>

Lecture 2 (FML) - Kidneys

- Debra Satz, 'Ethical Issues in the Supply and Demand of Human Kidneys' in *Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale* (Oxford University Press, 2010) Chapter 9
- [Optional: Albuero, K.Z.K, 'Kidneys for sale: regulating bodies through medical tourism in the Philippines' (2007) *Philippine Quarterly of Culture and Society*, 35(3), pp.196–212]
- [Optional: Susan Hankin, 'Regulating the sale of human organs. Virginia Law Review' (1985), 71(6)]

Lecture 3 (FML) - Surrogacy

- Michele Moody-Adams, 'On Surrogacy: Morality, Markets, and Motherhood' (1991), *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 5(2)
- [Optional] Debra Satz, 'Markets in Women's Reproductive Labor' in *Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale* (Oxford University Press, 2010)]

Week 10 - Equality

Lecture 1 (MC) - The Moral Basis of Equality

- Ian Carter, 'Respect and the Basis of Equality' (2011), *Ethics*, 121(3), pp. 538-544

- George Sher, 'Why We Are Moral Equals' in *Do All Persons Have Equal Moral Worth?* (Oxford University Press, 2014) Chapter 2
- [Optional: Peter Singer, 'All Animals Are Equal' in Tom Regan & Peter Singer, *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*, (Oxford University Press, 1989) pp. 215–226]
- Stan Husi, 'Why We (Almost Certainly) are Not Moral Equals' (2017), *The Journal of Ethics*, 21(4), pp.375–401.

Lecture 2 (MC) - Egalitarianism: Rawls and After

- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (1999 revised edition), sections 1-5, 11, 17, 24-25
- [Optional: Ronald Dworkin, 'What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources' (1981), *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 10(4), through p. 304]
- [Optional: Martha Nussbaum, *Women and human development the capabilities approach* (Cambridge University Press, 2000) pp. 70-86]
- [Optional: 'Rawls vs. Nozick,' Dworkin video interview: <https://bit.ly/3gM5zyu>]

Lecture 3 (MC) - Luck Egalitarianism versus Democratic Equality

- Elizabeth Anderson, 'What Is the Point of Equality?' (1999), *Ethics*, 109(2). pp. 288-292, 295-315
- [Optional: Samuel Scheffler, 'What Is Egalitarianism?' (2003), *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 31 (1), pp. 5–39.]
- [Optional: Carl Knight, 'In Defence of Luck Egalitarianism' (2005), *Res Publica*, 11(1), pp.55–73.]

Week 11 – Equality; Revision

Lecture 1 (MC) – What's Wrong with Inequality

- Isaiah Berlin, "Equality," in Henry Hardy *Concepts and Categories: Philosophical Essays*, Revised 2nd Ed, (Princeton University Press, 1996) pp. 106-108
- T.M. Scanlon, "What Does Equality Matter?"
- [Optional: Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Blackwell, 1974), pp. 149-164]
- [Optional: Harry Frankfurt, 'Equality as a Moral Ideal' (1987), *Ethics*, 98(1), pp.21–43.]

Lecture 2 & 3 – Revision

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 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%), a final assignment (70%), and short diagnostic quizzes (5%).

Mid-term essay

The deadline for the midterm essay is by **12pm (mid-day), Tuesday 20th 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 (1500 words). 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.

Final Assignment

The deadline for the final assignment is by **12pm (mid-day), Tuesday 8th December**.

The final assignment will consist in three multiple short essays (1000 words each).

You should submit your assignment 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 short essays, including footnotes but excluding bibliography, must not exceed the specified word limit. The precise word count must be written on the coversheet. Penalties will be applied as for the midterm essay.

Diagnostic Quizzes

There will be 30 quizzes in total (one for every lecture, excluding introductory and revision lectures). They will be available on Learn, 24 hours before the lecture and up to lecture time.

Quizzes will receive a diagnostic score: this will allow students to know how well they are doing and provide feedback for lecturers and tutors.

Quizzes will count towards final end of semester mark as a measure of participation: i.e. what matters is that you complete the quizzes, regardless of your score.

Completing at least 26 of quizzes = full 5% towards semester mark

If you complete less than 26 quizzes, here are the points you will receive

- Less than 6 quizzes = 0%
- At least 6 quizzes = 1%
- At least 12 quizzes = 2%
- At least 18 quizzes = 3%
- At least 24 quizzes = 4%

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

All lectures will be made available on the course's Learn page.

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 content (video and other)
- Tutorial arrangements
- Information about assessment arrangements

University of Edinburgh Library

All readings will be available on the [course's Resource List](#). Read more information on using Resource Lists [HERE](#).

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.

PhilPALS

PhilPALS is a peer-assisted learning scheme to help Philosophy first year students. [PhilPALS on Facebook](#)

Prizes

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

Questions?

For all **general questions about the course** please use the [GENERAL COURSE QUESTIONS](#) discussion forum. This includes questions about the Learn page, availability of lectures and readings and general academic matters. Before you post, look in the forum to see if someone already posted the same question. Questions will be answered regularly, throughout the week.

For **administrative questions** (e.g. about submission of assignments), you should contact the Course Secretary.

If you have a question regarding **specific lecture content** you should ask it

- in the lecture Q&A discussion (on Mentimeter)
- in your tutorial group
- during the (online) office hour of the relevant lecturer

If you have a question about specifically academic matters **that pertains *only to you*** (e.g. special circumstances) contact the Course Organiser via email.