Morality and Value (PHIL08015)
19/20
Semester 1

Course Organiser:
Dr Guy Fletcher
Guy.fletcher@ed.ac.uk
4.03, Dugald Stewart Building

Course Secretary:
Alison Lazda
philinfo@ed.ac.uk
UG Teaching Office, G.06 Dugald Stewart Building

Lecture Times and Location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:00 – 10:50</td>
<td>Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00 – 10:50</td>
<td>Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:00 – 10:50</td>
<td>Gordon Aikman Lecture Theatre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**

**Lecture 3 - Desire-fulfillment theory**

**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*.
Lecture 2 - Perfectionism about well-being
- Bradford, G. ‘Perfectionism’ in Fletcher, G. *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being*.

Lecture 3 - Shape of a Life
- 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
  http://www.utilitarianism.com/mill1.htm

Lecture 2: - Arguments for and against Consequentialism
- Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy, ‘Consequentialism’, (section 3 only)
  http://www.iep.utm.edu/conseque/#H3

Lecture 3 - Making Consequentialism more Sophisticated
- Hooker, B. ‘Rule Consequentialism’ in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
  http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism-rule

Week 4 — Morality by Agreement
Lecture 1

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

Week 5 — Virtue Ethics
Lecture 1

Lecture 2
- Aristotle: *Nichomachean Ethics*, Book II
Lecture 3

Optional Reading

Week 6 — Special Obligation
Lecture 1 - Friendship

Lecture 2 - Relationships and Morality

Lecture 3

Optional Reading

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)

Lecture 2 - Consent Theories of Political Obligation

Lecture 3 - Fairness Theories of Political Obligation

Optional readings (for the whole week)
- Locke, J. Second Treatise of Government §§95–131
Week 8 — Consent and Sexual Ethics

Lecture 1 - Philosophical Problems with Sexual Consent

Lecture 2 - Consent and Equality

Optional Reading:

Lecture 3 - Desire and ‘Unjust Sex’

Optional Reading

Week 9 - The Moral Limits of Markets

Lecture 1 - Markets

Optional Reading
- Other Replies in *Boston Review*
- Seung (Ginny) Choi and Virgil Henry Storr: ‘Can Trust. Reciprocity and Friendship Survive Contact with the Market?’ (2016)

Lecture 2 - Kidneys

Optional Reading

Lecture 3 - Surrogacy

Optional Reading

**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**

**Optional Reading**
- 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](https://plato.stanford.edu) (SEP)
- [The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](https://www.iep$sites.utm.edu) (IEP)

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

- [PhilPapers](https://philpapers.org)
- [Philosophy Compass](https://philpapers.org)
- [The Diversity Reading List](https://philpapers.org)

You will need to know how to track down sources, including electronic journals, using the library search engine [DiscoverED](https://libguides.utm.edu)

**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 mid-term 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.