

Philosophy 121: Ethical Theory

Erin Kelly

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Readings

Blackburn, Simon. *Ruling Passions*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1998.

Hume, David. *A Treatise of Hume Nature*. Edited by L. A. Selby-Bigge with notes by P. H. Nidditch. 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1978.

Kant, Immanuel. *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*. Trans. James W. Ellington. 3rd ed. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1981.

Korsgaard, Christine M. *The Sources of Normativity*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1996.

Smith, Michael. *The Moral Problem*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1994.

Blackboard website <http://blackboard.tufts.edu> (readings located under “Assignments”)

Relativism, Universality, Objectivity

- 9/10 Mackie, “The Subjectivity of Values,” secs. 1-2, 7-10
- 9/15 Harman, “Moral Relativism,” Pt. 1, secs. 1.1-1.3, 2.3-2.6
- 9/17 Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, sections 1-4, 11
Rorty, “On Ethnocentrism”
- 9/22 Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other*, Ch. 8, secs. 1-3
- 9/24 Nussbaum, “Non-Relative Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach”
- 9/29 Kraut, *What is Good and Why*, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-35)
- 10/1 Kraut, *What is Good and Why*, Ch. 1 (pp. 35-65)
- 10/2 **First paper due (6-7 pages)**

The Moral Sentiments

- 10/6 Hume, *Treatise*, pp. xiii-xix, 413-418, 455-470
- 10/8 Hume, *Treatise*, pp. 470-501, 516-534
- 10/13 no class (Monday schedule)
- 10/15 Hume, *Treatise*, pp. 574-591, 418-432
- 10/20 Blackburn, *Ruling Passions*, Ch. 3, pp. 59-68
Svavarsdottir, “On Simon Blackburn’s *Ruling Passions*”
- 10/22 Blackburn, *Ruling Passions*, Ch. 7, pp. 200-224, 233-237
- 10/27 Smith, *The Moral Problem*, pp. 130-150

Reason and Justification

- 10/29 Smith, *The Moral Problem*, pp. 151-181
- 11/3 Smith, *The Moral Problem*, pp. 182-202
Blackburn, *Ruling Passions*, pp. 261-269
- 11/5 **Mid-term Exam**
- 11/10 Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity*, pp. 7-21
- 11/12 Kant, *Grounding*, Preface, First Section, pp. 1-17
Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity*, pp. 90-98
- 11/17 Kant, *Grounding*, Second Section, pp. 19-32
Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity*, pp. 98-113
- 11/19 Kant, *Grounding*, Second Section, pp. 32-44
- 11/24 Korsgaard *The Sources of Normativity*, pp. 113-130
- 11/26 no class (Thanksgiving holiday)
- 12/1 Blackburn, *Ruling Passions*, Ch. 8, pp. 238-261

Morality's Limits

- 12/3 Williams, "Persons, Character and Morality"
- 12/8 Nagel, "Autonomy and Deontology," secs. 1-4, 6
- 12/10 Wilson, "On Some Alleged Limitations to Moral Endeavor"
- 12/14 **Final paper due (10-12 pages)**

Course Requirements

Participation and attendance	
First paper (6-7 pages)	25%
Mid-term exam	30%
Final paper (10-12 pages)	45%

Generally, the last 15 minutes of each class will be set aside for discussion. Each student will be assigned twice to write discussion questions.

Course Policies

Late papers will be marked down if the lateness is unexcused. Incompletes will only be granted under special circumstances and provided that you speak with the professor before the semester ends.