

Syllabus and Readings

Ethics

These five weeks will focus on some of the major issues in moral philosophy. Questions to be considered include: What are ethical claims about? Can any of them be true? How should we work out which actions are morally right, and which morally wrong? In what ways can moral theories help us with pressing practical questions? Can we be morally responsible for what we do, and, if so, how? Readings can be found at theshabbypedagogue.blogspot.com and downloaded from there.

Week 1: Moral Objectivity

J.L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* (Penguin Books, 1983), Chapter 1.

Week 2: Utilitarianism

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* [many editions], Chapter 2.

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* [Short excerpt on the experience machine]

Peter Vallentyne, "Against Maximizing Act Consequentialism"

Week 3: Kant's Ethics

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* [many editions], Chapter 1, and Chapter 2 focusing on pp. 412-442 (pages of standard German edition, also indicated in most translations).

W.D. Ross, *The Right and the Good*, Chapter 2 (What Makes Right Acts Right?)

Week 4: Applied Ethics

Don Marquis, 'Why Abortion is Immoral' *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 86, No. 4. (1989), pp. 183-202

Judith Jarvis Thomson, 'A Defence of Abortion', in Peter Singer, ed., *Applied Ethics* (Oxford, 1986) pp. 37-56.

Week 5: Moral Responsibility

Peter van Inwagen, 'The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism' *Philosophical Studies* 27 (1975):185-99.

Harry Frankfurt, 'Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility' *Journal of Philosophy* 66 (1969): 829-39. Reprinted in his *The Importance of What We Care About* (Cambridge University Press, 1988).

In these five weeks we'll explore some of the central problems in epistemology concerning the nature of knowledge, what we know and how we know it. We'll look at the nature of knowledge and some of the related notions used in giving an account of it: belief, justification, evidence and warrant. We'll also consider some problems that arise when one starts to think about knowledge, such as whether we can ever know anything about the external world.

Most of the readings can be found in Sosa, Kim, Fantl, and McGrath (ed.), *Epistemology: An Anthology* 2nd edition (Blackwell-Wiley). (If you need something that is not in this anthology you can send me an email and I will provide it.)

Week 1: Knowledge

Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"

Nozick, "Knowledge and Skepticism"

Sosa, "How to Defeat Opposition to Moore"

Week 2: The Regress of Justification

Sosa, "The Raft and the Pyramid"

BonJour, "Can Empirical Knowledge Have a Foundation?"

Week 3: Internalism/Externalism

Goldman, "What is Justified Belief?"

Cohen, "Justification and Truth"

Goldman, "Internalism Exposed"

Wedgwood, "Internalism Explained" (Optional)

Week 4: Skepticism

Pryor, "The Skeptic and the Dogmatist"

McDowell, "Criteria, Defeasibility, and Knowledge"

Lewis, "Elusive Knowledge" (Optional)

Week 5: The Apriori

Quine, "Two Dogmas of Empiricism"

Paul Grice and P.F. Strawson, "In Defense of a Dogma"