

Philosophy 37 – Ethical Theory
Fall 2009

2A 107 Thornton

Lawrence Crocker Office Hours: 208A Thornton H 4:00-6:00 ABA

Ethical Theory will devote 2.5 weeks to metaethics: What are we doing when we make moral assertions? Are there moral truths and moral facts? The remainder of the course will be on substantive ethics: What actions are morally right? What is it to be morally virtuous? We will focus on utilitarianism (maximizing the good) for 3 weeks, deontology (moral principles control) for 3 weeks, with single sessions on contract theories of ethics and virtue ethics.

This course has a mid-level number for a reason. Some of the readings were written more for specialists and graduate students than for undergraduates, and will be challenging.

Texts: *Consequentialism*, ed. S. Darwall (“C”); *Deontology*, ed. S. Darwall (“D”); Shafer-Landau and C. Cuneo, *Foundations of Ethics* (“S”)

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
H 9/24	Ross, Normative Ethics & Metaethics;	S 1-5 D 55-80 S 383-385 (penultimate full paragraph);
T 9/29	Intuitionism	S 402-419
H 10/1	Error Theories Mackie, Joyce	S 9-34
T 10/6	Expressivism Ayer, Gibbard	S 35-46, 71-78
H 10/8	Relativism; Realism Harman, Shafer-Landau	S 84-92; 210-221
T 10/13	Intro to Substantive Ethics Bentham	C 1-7 C 11-31
H 10/15	Bentham/Mill	C 32-54, 64-66
T 10/20	Sidgwick/Rawls	C 67-88; /Crocker Blitzout
H 10/22	Rawls/ Pettit	C 253-257, 95-107,
T 10/27	Parfit Sen	C 132-159, 259-286
H 10/29	Railton	C160-196
T 11/3	Kant Korsegaard	D 1-7D 12-33, 212-235
H 11/5	Nozick	D 83-89
T 11/10	Nozick Nagel	D 90-111
H 11/12	Quinn Thomson	D 139-161 195-211
T 11/17	Kamm	D 162-193
H 11/19	Darwall	D 112-138
T 11/24	Contractualism	Sayre-McCord Blitzout

T 12/1	Virtue Ethics Term Papers Due	Blitzout
	Final	

Laptops are permitted in class only for the purpose of note taking and referring to downloaded readings. Web browsing, blitz reading and writing, and photo reviewing are not permitted. Please do not turn on your laptop unless you can abide by this policy.

Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations. This will not be a problem.

Students seeking disability-related accommodations should register with the Student Accessibility Service office. Once SAS authorizes accommodations, students should show me the SAS Accommodation Consent form or a letter on SAS letterhead. Any student with a question about qualification to receive accommodations, should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions about accommodations will remain confidential.