

MCCC FALL 2018, Ethics Reading Assignment

"Fundamentals Of Ethics" by Russ Shafer-Landau 3rd Edition ISBN: 978-0-19-977355-8

5-Sep	The Lay of the Land	FIRST CLASS INTRODUCTION
	Skepticism about Ethics	
	Ethical Starting Points	
	* What Is Morality?	
	Moral Reasoning	
	The Role of Moral Theory	
	Looking Ahead	
10-Sep	Happiness and Intrinsic Value	PART ONE THE GOOD LIFE 1. Hedonism: Its Powerful Appeal
	The Attractions of Hedonism	
	There Are Many Models of a Good Life	
	Personal Authority and Well-Being	
	Misery Clearly Hampers a Good Life; Happiness Clearly Improves It	
	The Limits of Explanation	
	Rules of the Good Life--and Their Exceptions	
	Happiness Is What We Want for Our Loved <i>Ones</i>	
12-Sep	The Paradox of Hedonism	2. Is Happiness All That Matters?
	Evil Pleasures	
	The Two Worlds	
	False Happiness	
	The Importance of Autonomy	
	Life's Trajectory	
	Unhappiness as a Symptom of Harm	
	Conclusion	
17-Sep	A Variety of Good Lives	3. Getting What You Want
	Personal Authority	
	Avoiding Objective Values	
	Motivation	
	Justifying the Pursuit of Self-Interest	
	Knowledge of the Good	
	Getting What You Want May Not Be Necessary for Promoting Your Good	4. Problems for the Desire Theory
	Getting What You Want May Not Be Sufficient for Promoting Your Good	
	Desires Based on False Beliefs	
19-Sep	Disinterested and Other-Regarding Desires	PART TWO NORMATIVE ETHICS: DOING THE RIGHT THING 5. Morality and Religion
	Disappointment	
	Ignorance of Desire Satisfaction	
	Impoverished <i>Desires</i>	
	The Paradox of Self-Harm and Self-Sacrifice	
	The Fallibility of Our Deepest Desires	
	Conclusion	
	Three Assumptions about Morality and Religion	
	First Assumption: Religious Belief Is Needed for Moral Motivation	
	Second Assumption: God Is the Creator of Morality	
	Third Assumption: Religion Is an Essential Source of Moral Guidance	
	Conclusion	
24-Sep	The Theory and Its Attractions	6. Natural Law
	Three Conceptions of Human Nature	
	* Human Nature as Animal Nature	
	Human Nature Is What Is Innately Human	
	Human Nature Is What All Humans Have in Common	
	Natural Purposes	
	The Argument from Humanity	
	Conclusion	
26-Sep	Egoism and Altruism	7. Psychological Egoism
	Does It Matter whether Psychological Egoism Is True?	
	The Argument from Our Strongest Desires	

	The Argument from Expected Benefit The Argument from Avoiding Misery Two Egoistic Strategies Appealing to the Guilty Conscience Expanding the Realm of Self-Interest Letting the Evidence Decide Conclusion	
1-Oct	Why Be Moral? Two Popular Arguments for Ethical Egoism The Self-Reliance Argument The Libertarian Argument The Best Argument for Ethical Egoism Three Problems for Ethical Egoism Egoism Violates Core Moral Beliefs	8. Ethical Egoism
3-Oct	Egoism Cannot Allow for the Existence of Moral Rights Egoism Arbitrarily Makes My Interests All-Important Conclusion The Nature of Consequentialism Its Structure Maximizing Goodness Moral Knowledge	9. Consequentialism: Its Nature and Attractions
8-Oct	Actual versus Expected Results Assessing Actions and Intentions The Attractions of Utilitarianism Impartiality The Ability to Justify Conventional Moral Wisdom Conflict Resolution Moral Flexibility The Scope of the Moral Community * Slippery Slope Arguments	QUIZ 1
10-Oct	Measuring Well-Being Utilitarianism Is Very Demanding Deliberation Motivation Action Impartiality No Intrinsic Wrongness (or Rightness)	10. Consequentialism: Its Difficulties
15-Oct	The Problem of Injustice Potential Solutions to the Problem of Injustice Justice Is Also Intrinsically Valuable Injustice Is Never <i>Optimific</i> Justice Must Sometimes Be Sacrificed Rule Consequentialism Conclusion	QUIZ 2
17-Oct	Consistency and Fairness The Principle of Universalizability Morality and Rationality Assessing the Principle of Universalizability Integrity Kant on Absolute Moral Duties	11. The Kantian Perspective: Fairness and Justice
22-Oct	The Principle of Humanity The Importance of Rationality and Autonomy The Good Will and Moral Worth Five Problems with the Principle of Humanity Vagueness Determining Just Deserts Are We Autonomous? Moral Luck The Scope of the Moral Community Conclusion	12. The Kantian Perspective: Autonomy and Respect

24-Oct	The Lure of Proceduralism	13. The Social Contract Tradition: The Theory and Its Attractions	
	The Background of the Social Contract Theory		
	The Prisoner's Dilemma		
	Cooperation and the State of Nature		
	The Advantages of Contractarianism		
	Morality Is Essentially a Social Phenomenon	MIDTERM	
29-Oct	Contractarianism Explains and Justifies the Content of the Basic Moral Rules		
	Contractarianism Offers a Method for Justifying Every Moral Rule		
	Contractarianism Explains the Objectivity of Morality		
	Contractarianism Explains Why It Is Sometimes Acceptable to Break the Moral Rules		
	More Advantages: Morality and the Law		
	Contractarianism Justifies a Basic Moral Duty to Obey the Law		
31-Oct	The Contractarian Justification of Legal Punishment	QUIZ 3	
	Contractarianism Justifies the State's Role in Criminal Law		
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	The Role of Consent		
	Disagreement among the Contractors	14. The Social Contract Tradition: Problems and Prospects	
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	Conclusion		
5-Nov	The Structure of Moral Theories		15. Ethical Pluralism Absolute Moral Rules
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	Preventing Catastrophes		
	The Doctrine of Double Effect		
	A Reply to the Argument from Disaster Prevention		
	How the DDE Threatens Act Consequentialism		
	Distinguishing Intention from Foresight		
	Moral Conflict and Contradiction		
	Is Moral Absolutism Irrational?		
	The Doctrine of Doing and Allowing		
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7-Nov	Ross's Ethic of Prima Facie Duties	16. Ethical Pluralism: Prima Facie Duties and Ethical Particularism	
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	We Are Sometimes Permitted to Break the Moral Rules		
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	Addressing the Antiabsolutist Arguments		
	A Problem for Ross's View		
	Knowing the Fundamental Moral Rules		
12-Nov	Self-Evidence and the Testing of Moral Theories		
	Knowing the Right Thing to Do		
	Ethical Particularism		
	Three Problems for Ethical Particularism		
	Its Lack of Unity		
	Accounting for Moral Knowledge		
	Some Things Possess Permanent Moral Importance		
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14-Nov	The Standard of Right Action	17. Virtue Ethics	
	Moral Complexity		
	Moral Understanding		
	Moral Education		
	The Nature of Virtue		
	Virtue and the Good Life		
19-Nov	Objections		
	Tragic Dilemmas		
	Does Virtue Ethics Offer Adequate Moral <i>Guidance</i> ?		
	Is Virtue Ethics Too Demanding?		
	Who Are the Moral Role Models?		
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21-Nov	The Priority Problem	THANKS GIVING RECESS NO CLASS N	
	Conclusion		
	The Elements of Feminist Ethics		
	Moral Development		
	Women's Experience		
	The Ethics of Care	18. Feminist Ethics	
26-Nov	The Importance of Emotions	PART THREE. METAETHICS: THE STATUS OF MORALITY	
	Against Unification		
	Against Impartiality and Abstraction		
	Against Competition		
	Downplaying Rights		
	Challenges for Feminist Ethics		
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28-Nov	Moral Skepticism		19. Ethical Relativism
	Two Kinds of Ethical Relativism		
	Some Implications of Ethical Subjectivism and Cultural Relativism		
	Moral Infallibility		
	Moral Equivalence		
3-Dec	Questioning Our Own Commitments		
	Moral <i>Progress</i>		
	Ethical Subjectivism and the Problem of Contradiction		
	Cultural Relativism and the Problem of Contradiction		
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	Conclusion	20. Moral Nihilism	
5-Dec	Error Theory		
	Expressivism		
	How Is It Possible to Argue Logically about Morality?		
	Expressivism and Amoralists		
	The Nature of Moral Judgment		
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10-Dec	Objectivity Requires Absolutism		
	All Truth Is Subjective		
	Equal Rights Imply Equal Plausibility		
	Moral Objectivity Supports Dogmatism		
	Moral Objectivity Supports Intolerance		
	Moral Objectivity Cannot Allow for Legitimate Cultural Variation		
12-Dec	Moral Disagreement Undermines Moral Objectivity		
	Atheism Undermines Moral Objectivity		
	The Absence of Categorical Reasons Undermines Moral Objectivity		
	Moral Motivation Undermines Moral Objectivity		
	Values Have No Place in a Scientific World		
	Conclusion	FINAL DUE	