

MCCC SPRING 2018, Ethics Reading Assignment

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

17-Jan		FIRST CLASS
22-Jan	The Lay of the Land	INTRODUCTION
	Skepticism about Ethics	
	Ethical Starting Points	
	* What Is Morality?	
	Moral Reasoning	
	The Role of Moral Theory	
	Looking Ahead	
24-Jan	Happiness and Intrinsic Value	PART ONE
29-Jan	Happiness and Intrinsic Value	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>	
31-Jan	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	
5-Feb	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	
7-Feb	Disinterested and Other-Regarding Desires	
	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	PART TWO
	First Assumption: Religious Belief Is Needed for Moral Motivation	NORMATIVE ETHICS:
	Second Assumption: God Is the Creator of Morality	DOING THE RIGHT THING
	Third Assumption: Religion Is an Essential Source of Moral Guidance	5. Morality and Religion
	Conclusion	
12-Feb	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	
14-Feb	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	
19-Feb	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
21-Feb	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
26-Feb	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
28-Feb	Measuring Well-Being Utilitarianism Is Very Demanding Deliberation Motivation Action Impartiality No Intrinsic Wrongness (or Rightness)	10. Consequentialism: Its Difficulties MIDTERM
5-Mar	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
7-Mar	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
12-Mar	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	12. The Kantian Perspective: Autonomy and Respect SPRING BREAK

	The Scope of the Moral Community Conclusion	
14-Mar	The Lure of Proceduralism 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	13. The Social Contract Tradition: The Theory and Its Attractions SPRING BREAK
19-Mar	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	
21-Mar	The Contractarian Justification of Legal Punishment Contractarianism Justifies the State's Role in Criminal Law Contractarianism and Civil Disobedience Why Be Moral? The Role of Consent Disagreement among the Contractors The Scope of the Moral Community Conclusion	QUIZ 3 14. The Social Contract Tradition: Problems and Prospects
26-Mar	The Structure of Moral Theories Is Torture Always Immoral? 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 Conclusion	15. Ethical Pluralism Absolute Moral Rules
28-Mar	Ross's Ethic of Prima Facie Duties The Advantages of Ross's View Pluralism We Are Sometimes Permitted to Break the Moral Rules Moral Conflict Moral Regret Addressing the Antiabsolutist Arguments A Problem for Ross's View Knowing the Fundamental Moral Rules	16. Ethical Pluralism: Prima Facie Duties and Ethical Particularism
2-Apr	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 Conclusion	
4-Apr	The Standard of Right Action Moral Complexity Moral Understanding Moral Education The Nature of Virtue Virtue and the Good Life	17. Virtue Ethics
9-Apr	Objections Tragic Dilemmas Does Virtue Ethics Offer Adequate Moral <i>Guidance</i> ? Is Virtue Ethics Too Demanding?	

	Who Are the Moral Role Models? Conflict and Contradiction	
11-Apr	The Priority Problem Conclusion The Elements of Feminist Ethics Moral Development Women's Experience The Ethics of Care	18. Feminist Ethics
16-Apr	The Importance of Emotions Against Unification Against Impartiality and Abstraction Against Competition Downplaying Rights Challenges for Feminist Ethics Conclusion	
18-Apr	Moral Skepticism Two Kinds of Ethical Relativism Some Implications of Ethical Subjectivism and Cultural Relativism Moral Infallibility Moral Equivalence	PART THREE. METAETHICS: THE STATUS OF MORALITY 19. Ethical Relativism
23-Apr	Questioning Our Own Commitments Moral <i>Progress</i> Ethical Subjectivism and the Problem of Contradiction Cultural Relativism and the Problem of Contradiction Ideal Observers Conclusion	
25-Apr	Error Theory Expressivism How Is It Possible to Argue Logically about Morality? Expressivism and Amoralists The Nature of Moral Judgment Conclusion	20. Moral Nihilism
30-Apr	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	21. Eleven Arguments against Moral Objectivity
2-May	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	
5/7		FINAL DUE

