

MCCC SPRING 2019, Ethics Reading Assignment

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

23-Jan	The Lay of the Land Skepticism about Ethics Ethical Starting Points * What Is Morality? Moral Reasoning The Role of Moral Theory Looking Ahead	FIRST CLASS INTRODUCTION
28-Jan	Happiness and Intrinsic Value 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>	PART ONE THE GOOD LIFE 1. Hedonism: Its Powerful Appeal
30-Jan	The Paradox of Hedonism Evil Pleasures The Two Worlds False Happiness The Importance of Autonomy Life's Trajectory Unhappiness as a Symptom of Harm Conclusion	2. Is Happiness All That Matters?
4-Feb	A Variety of Good Lives 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 Getting What You Want May Not Be Sufficient for Promoting Your Good Desires Based on False Beliefs	3. Getting What You Want 4. Problems for the Desire Theory
6-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 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	PART TWO NORMATIVE ETHICS: DOING THE RIGHT THING 5. Morality and Religion
11-Feb	The Theory and Its Attractions 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	6. Natural Law
13-Feb	Egoism and Altruism Does It Matter whether Psychological Egoism Is True? The Argument from Our Strongest Desires	7. Psychological Egoism

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

13-Mar	The Lure of Proceduralism	13. The Social Contract Tradition: The Theory and Its Attractions MIDTERM
	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	
18-Mar	Contractarianism Explains and Justifies the Content of the Basic Moral Rules	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
	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	
20-Mar	The Contractarian Justification of Legal Punishment	SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)
	Contractarianism Justifies the State's Role in Criminal Law	
	Contractarianism and Civil Disobedience	14. The Social Contract Tradition: Problems and Prospects
	Why Be Moral?	
	The Role of Consent	
	Disagreement among the Contractors	
	The Scope of the Moral Community	
	Conclusion	
25-Mar	The Structure of Moral Theories	15. Ethical Pluralism Absolute Moral Rules
	Is Torture Always Immoral?	
	Preventing Catastrophes	QUIZ 2
	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	
27-Mar	Ross's Ethic of Prima Facie Duties	16. Ethical Pluralism: Prima Facie Duties and Ethical Particularism
	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	
1-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	
3-Apr	The Standard of Right Action	17. Virtue Ethics
	Moral Complexity	
	Moral Understanding	
	Moral Education	
	The Nature of Virtue	
	Virtue and the Good Life	
8-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	

10-Apr	The Priority Problem	18. Feminist Ethics
	Conclusion	
	The Elements of Feminist Ethics	
	Moral Development	
	Women's Experience	
	The Ethics of Care	
15-Apr	The Importance of Emotions	QUIZ 3
	Against Unification	
	Against Impartiality and Abstraction	
	Against Competition	
	Downplaying Rights	
	Challenges for Feminist Ethics	
	Conclusion	
17-Apr	Moral Skepticism	PART THREE. METAETHICS: THE STATUS OF MORALITY 19. Ethical Relativism
	Two Kinds of Ethical Relativism	
	Some Implications of Ethical Subjectivism and Cultural Relativism	
	Moral Infallibility	
	Moral Equivalence	
22-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	
24-Apr	Error Theory	20. Moral Nihilism
	Expressivism	
	How Is It Possible to Argue Logically about Morality?	
	Expressivism and Amoralists	
	The Nature of Moral Judgment	
	Conclusion	
29-Apr	Objectivity Requires Absolutism	21. Eleven Arguments against Moral Objectivity
	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	
1-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	
6-May		FINAL DUE