

## Faculty Undergraduate Reading List: Ethics (103)

The current description of this paper in undergraduate *Course Handbooks* is as follows:

The purpose of this subject is to enable you to come to grips with some questions which exercise many people, philosophers and non-philosophers alike. How should we decide what is best to do, and how best to lead our lives? Are our value judgments on these and other matters objective or do they merely reflect our subjective preferences and viewpoints? Are we in fact free to make these choices, or have our decisions already been determined by antecedent features of our environment and genetic endowment? In considering these issues you will examine a variety of ethical concepts, such as those of justice, rights, equality, virtue, and happiness, which are widely used in moral and political argument. There is also opportunity to discuss some applied ethical issues. Knowledge of major historical thinkers, e.g. Aristotle and Hume and Kant, will be encouraged, but not required in the examination.

Here is the relevant extract from **Examination Decrees and Regulations**:

Candidates will be given an opportunity to show some first-hand knowledge of some principal historical writings on this subject, but will not be required to do so. Questions will normally be set on the following topics:

1. Ethical concepts: obligation, good, virtue
2. Objectivity and the explanation of value beliefs
3. Moral Psychology: akrasia; conscience, guilt and shame
4. Freedom and responsibility
5. Consequentialism and deontology
6. Self-interest, prudence and amoralism
7. Rights, justice, and equality
8. Kant: *The Groundwork*
9. Happiness, welfare and a life worth living.

Asterisks below mark works likely to be especially helpful. The readings on particular topics are divided into two sections: assume that the first section is asterisked.

Publication details given for books are usually for first editions; later editions are often available.

Essay questions are not provided here. Consult your tutor and/or recent examination papers.

### Key historical readings

\*Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (trans. Crisp, Irwin (2<sup>nd</sup> edn.), or Ross (OUP World's Classics, revised L. Brown)

\*Hume, *An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*

\*Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (trans. Beck, Gregor, Hill & Zweig, Paton, or Wood)

\*J.S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*

## Reference

In addition to the Stanford and Routledge *Encyclopedias* (both online in the Oxford domain), see L. & C. Becker (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Ethics* (Routledge, 2001). These resources all contain helpful bibliographies. See also the websites maintained by Stephen Darwall and by Larry Hinman.

## Introductions, Handbooks, Collections

- M. Baron, P. Pettit, M. Smith, *Three Methods of Ethics* (Blackwell, 1998)  
C. Broad, *Five Types of Ethical Theory* (RKP, 1930)  
\*D. Copp (ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory* (OUP, 2006)  
\*S. Darwall, *Philosophical Ethics* (Westview, 1998)  
J. Dreier (ed.), *Contemporary Debates in Moral Theory* (Blackwell, 2006)  
J. Glover, *Causing Death and Saving Lives* (Penguin, 1977)  
\*S. Kagan, *Normative Ethics* (Westview, 1997)  
\*H. LaFollette (ed.), *Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory* (Blackwell, 2000)  
\*J.L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* (Penguin, 1973)  
\*R. Norman, *The Moral Philosophers* (Clarendon Press, 1983)  
\*J. Rachels, *The Elements of Morality* (preferably in later edn. rev. by S. Rachels)  
\* J. Rachels (ed.), *Ethical Theory 1: The Question of Objectivity* (OUP, 1998)  
\* J. Rachels (ed.), *Ethical Theory 2: Theories about How We Should Live* (OUP, 1998)  
H. Sidgwick, *Outlines of the History of Ethics* (Macmillan, 1886)  
P. Singer (ed.), *A Companion to Ethics* (Blackwell, 1991)  
M. Timmons, *Moral Theory* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2002)  
\*D. Wiggins, *Ethics* (Penguin, 2006)  
\*B. Williams, *Morality* (Harper & Row, 1972)  
\*B. Williams, 'Ethics', in A. Grayling (ed.), *Philosophy: A Guide through the Subject* (OUP, 1995)

## Selection of Modern Works

- J. Broome, *Weighing Lives* (OUP, 2004)  
J. Dancy, *Ethics without Principles* (Clarendon Press, 2004)  
\*P. Foot, *Virtues and Vices* (Blackwell, 1978)  
D. Gauthier, *Morals by Agreement* (Clarendon Press, 1986)  
A. Gibbard, *Wise Choices, Apt Feelings* (Clarendon Press, 1990)  
J. Griffin, *Well-Being* (Clarendon Press, 1986)  
\*R.M. Hare, *Moral Thinking* (Clarendon Press, 1981)  
C. Korsgaard, *The Sources of Normativity* (CUP, 1996)  
A. MacIntyre, *After Virtue* (Duckworth, 1981)  
G.E. Moore, *Principia Ethica* (CUP, 1903)  
I. Murdoch, *The Sovereignty of Good* (RKP, 1970)  
T. Nagel, *The Possibility of Altruism* (Clarendon Press, 1970)  
\*T. Nagel, *The View from Nowhere* (OUP, 1986)  
O. O'Neill, *Constructions of Reason* (CUP, 1989)  
D. Parfit, *Reasons and Persons* (Clarendon Press, 1984)  
J. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard UP, 1971)  
\*W.D. Ross, *The Right and the Good* (Clarendon Press, 1930)

T. Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other* (Belknap, 1998)  
 \*S. Scheffler, *The Rejection of Consequentialism* (Clarendon Press, 1982)  
 P. Singer, *Practical Ethics* (CUP, 1979)  
 M. Smith, *The Moral Problem* (Blackwell, 1994)  
 \*B. Williams, *Moral Luck* (CUP, 1981)  
 B. Williams, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy* (Fontana, 1985)

## 1. Egoism and Altruism: Why Should I be Moral?

Plato, *Republic*, Book II, to 367e (trans. Grube, rev. Reeve)  
 J. Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chs. on ‘What is Morality?’ and ‘Ethical Egoism’  
 P. Foot, ‘Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives’, in her *Virtues and Vices*  
 B. Williams, *Morality*, ch. 1  
 K. Baier, ‘Egoism’, in Singer, *Companion to Ethics*  
 J. Mackie, *Ethics*, ch. 5  
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 H. Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics* (7<sup>th</sup> edn., Macmillan, 1907), 2.1; Concluding Chapter  
 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, I.7; IX.8  
 Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ch. 13  
 Hume, *Enquiry*, sects. 5, 9; app. 2  
 B. Hooker, ‘Does Being Moral Benefit the Agent?’, in R. Crisp (ed.), *How Should One Live?*  
 (Clarendon Press, 1986)  
 J. Butler, *Sermons at the Rolls Chapel*, 1, 11.

## 2. Utilitarianism and Consequentialism: Overview

J.S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*, esp. chs. 2, 4  
 J. Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chs. on ‘The Utilitarian Approach’ and ‘The Debate over Utilitarianism’  
 J. Smart and B. Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against* (CUP, 1973)  
 J. Griffin, ‘Modern utilitarianism’, *Revue Internationale de Philosophie* 1982  
 A. Sen and B. Williams, ‘Introduction’ to their (ed.) *Utilitarianism and Beyond* (CUP, 1982)  
 D. Brink, ‘Some Forms and Limits of Consequentialism’, in Copp (ed.), *Oxford Handbook*  
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 W. Shaw, et al., ‘Is the Rightness of Action Determined by the Value of Consequences?’, in J. Dreier (ed.), *Contemporary Debates in Moral Theory*  
 R. Crisp, *Mill on Utilitarianism* (Routledge, 1997), ch. 5  
 P. Vallentyne, ‘Against Maximizing Act Consequentialism’, in Dreier (ed.), *Contemporary Debates*  
 A. Norcross, ‘The Scalar Approach to Utilitarianism’, in H. West (ed.), *Blackwell Guide to Mill’s Utilitarianism* (Blackwell, 2006)  
 P. Foot, ‘Utilitarianism and the Virtues’, *Mind* 1985; repr. in S. Scheffler (ed.), *Consequentialism and its Critics* (OUP, 1988)  
 B. Hooker, ‘Rule consequentialism’, in the *Stanford Encyclopedia*

### 3. Utilitarianism, Integrity and Character

- S. Scheffler, 'Introduction' to his (ed.) *Consequentialism and its Critics*  
B. Williams, 'Persons, Character and Morality', in his *Moral Luck*  
B. Williams, 'Utilitarianism and Self-indulgence', in *Moral Luck*  
P. Railton, 'Alienation, Consequentialism and the Demands of Morality', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1984 (repr. in S. Scheffler (ed.), *Consequentialism and its Critics*)  
M. Stocker, 'The Schizophrenia of Modern Ethical Theory', *Jour. Phil.* 1976; repr. in R. Crisp & M. Slote (ed.), *Virtue Ethics* (OUP, 1997)  
F. Jackson, 'Decision-theoretic Consequentialism and the Nearest and Dearest Objection', *Ethics* 1991

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- B. Williams, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, ch. 6  
F. Kamm, 'Non-consequentialism, the Person as End-in-itself, and the Significance of Status', *Phil. Pub. Aff.* 1992  
S. Kagan, 'Does Consequentialism Demand too Much?', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1984  
M. Slote, *Common-sense Morality and Consequentialism* (Routledge, 1985), chs. 2-3  
R. Adams, 'Motive utilitarianism', *Jour. Phil.* 1976; repr. in Rachels (ed.), *Ethical Theory 2*  
D. McNaughton & P. Rawling, 'Deontology and Agency', *The Monist* 1993

### 4. Kant: Universalizability

- Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*  
T. Hill, 'Kantian Normative Ethics', in Copp (ed.), *Oxford Handbook*  
O. O'Neill, 'Kantian Ethics', in Singer, *Companion to Ethics*  
C. Korsgaard, *Creating the Kingdom of Ends* (CUP, 1996), chs. 1, 3  
J. Mackie, *Ethics*, ch. 4  
P. Winch, 'The Universalizability of Moral Judgements', *Monist* 1965; repr. in his *Ethics and Action* (RKP, 1972)

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- B. Williams, *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy*, ch. 4  
J. Mackie, 'The Three Stages of Universalization', in his *Persons and Values* (Clarendon Press, 1985)  
D. Wiggins, 'Universalizability, Impartiality, Truth', in his *Needs, Values, Truth* (OUP, preferably 3<sup>rd</sup> edn., 1998)  
H. Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics* (7th edn), pp. xix, 209-10, 379-80  
R. Hare, *Moral Thinking*, chs. 5-7  
D. Locke, 'The Principle of Equal Interests', *Phil. Review* 1981

## 5. Kant: Acting from Duty

Kant, *Groundwork*

C. Broad, *Five Types of Ethical Theory*, ch. 5

C. Korsgaard, 'From Duty and for the sake of the Noble: Kant and Aristotle on morally good action', in S. Engstrom & J. Whiting (ed.), *Aristotle, Kant, and the Stoics* (CUP, 1996)

L. Blum, *Friendship, Altruism and Morality* (RKP, 1980), chs. 1-2

B. Herman, 'On the Value of Acting from the Motive of Duty', *Phil. Review* 1981

S. Wolf, 'Moral Saints', *Jour. Phil.* 1982

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M. Baron, 'On the Alleged Repugnance of Acting from Duty', *Jour. Phil.* 1984

O. O'Neill, 'Kant after Virtue', *Inquiry* 1983

Gospel of St John, ch. 15

A. Wood, *Kant's Ethical Theory* (CUP, 1999), chs. 2-4

J. Scheewind, 'Autonomy, Obligation, and Virtue: An Overview of Kant's Moral Philosophy', in P. Guyer (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to Kant* (CUP, 1992)

N. Arpaly, 'Moral Worth', in her *Unprincipled Virtue* (OUP, 2003)

## 6. Virtue and Virtue Ethics

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, book 1, ch. 7; 2.1-6;6.1; 6.12-13; 10.7-8

R. Crisp, 'Modern Moral Philosophy and the Virtues', intro. to his (ed.), *How Should One Live?* (Clarendon Press, 1996)

P. Foot, 'Virtues and Vices', in her *Virtues and Vices*; repr. in R. Crisp & M. Slote (ed.), *Virtue Ethics* (OUP, 1997), as are Hursthouse, McDowell, Anscombe

R. Hursthouse, 'Virtue theory and abortion', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1991;

J. McDowell, 'Virtue and Reason', *Monist* 1979

T. Hurka, 'Against Virtue Ethics', ch. 8 of his *Virtue, Vice, and Value* (OUP, 2001)

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G. Trianosky, 'What is Virtue Ethics All About?', *American Philosophical Quarterly* 1990

G. Anscombe, 'Modern Moral Philosophy', *Philosophy* 1958

G. Harman, 'Moral Philosophy Meets Social Psychology: Virtue Ethics and the Fundamental Attribution Error', *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 1998-9.

R. Audi, 'Acting from Virtue', *Mind* 1995

C. Swanton, *Virtue Ethics: A Pluralistic View* (OUP, 2003), ch. 11

R. Johnson, 'Virtue and Right', *Ethics* 2003

## 7. Hume: Reason and Passion

Hume, *Treatise on Human Nature*, bk. 2, pt. 3, sect. 3; bk. 3, pt. 1; *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, app. I

P. Railton, 'Humean Theory of Practical Rationality', in Copp (ed.), *Oxford Handbook*

R. Norman, *The Moral Philosophers*, ch. 5

J. Mackie, *Hume's Moral Theory*, chs. 3-4

W. Quinn, 'Putting Rationality in its Place', in R. Frey and C. Morris (ed.), *Value, Welfare and Morality* (CUP, 1993); repr. in Quinn, *Morality and Action* (CUP, 1993)

C. Korsgaard, 'Skepticism about Practical Reason', *Jour. Phil.* 1986; repr. in her *Creating the Kingdom of Ends* (CUP, 1996)

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J. Dreier, 'Humean Doubts about the Practical Justification of Morality', in G. Cullity and B. Gaut (ed.), *Ethics and Practical Reason* (Clarendon Press, 1997)

B. Williams, 'Internal and External Reasons', in his *Moral Luck*

M. Smith, *The Moral Problem*, chs. 1, 3, 5

D. McNaughton, *Moral Vision* (Blackwell, 1988), chs. 2-3

D. Wiggins, *Ethics*, chs. 3-4

T. Nagel, *The Possibility of Altruism*, ch. 5

## 8. Moral Realism and Objectivity

J. Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, chs. on 'Cultural Relativism' and 'Subjectivism'

J. Mackie, *Ethics*, ch. 1

M. Smith, 'Moral Realism', in H. LaFollette (ed.), *Blackwell Guide*

A. Ayer, *Language, Truth and Logic* (2nd edn), introduction (section entitled 'The emotive theory of ethics') and ch. 6

T. Nagel, *The View From Nowhere*, ch. 8

G. Harman, *The Nature of Morality* (OUP, 1977), chs. 1, 3-4

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P. Railton, 'Moral Factualism', in J. Dreier (ed.), *Contemporary Debates in Moral Theory*

R. Wedgwood, 'The Meaning of "Ought"', *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 2006

S. Blackburn, *Spreading the Word* (Clarendon Press, 1984), ch. 6

D. McNaughton, *Moral Vision*, chs. 1, 3-5

D. Wiggins, 'Truth, Invention, and the Meaning of Life', in his *Needs, Values, Truth*

J. McDowell, 'Values and Secondary Qualities', in T. Honderich (ed.), *Morality and Objectivity*

## 9. Freedom and Responsibility

- T. Pink, *Free Will: A Very Short Introduction* (OUP, 2004)  
Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, sect. 8; *Treatise*, bk. 2, pt. 3, sects. 1-3.  
G. Watson, 'Introduction' to his (ed.), *Free Will* (preferably 2<sup>nd</sup> edn., OUP, 2003)  
P. Strawson, 'Freedom and Resentment', *Proc. British Academy* 1962; repr. in Watson (ed.) (as are Frankfurt's 1<sup>st</sup> paper below, van Inwagen, Chisholm)  
G. Strawson, 'The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility', *Phil. Studies* 1994  
J.M. Fischer, 'Free Will and Moral Responsibility', in Copp (ed.), *Oxford Handbook*  
+++++  
J. Mackie, *Ethics*, ch. 9  
H. Frankfurt, 'Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person', *Jour. Phil.* 1971  
H. Frankfurt, 'Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility', *Jour. Phil.* 1969  
R. Young, 'The Implications of Determinism', in P. Singer, *Companion to Ethics*  
P. van Inwagen, 'The Incompatibility of Free Will and Determinism', *Phil. Studies* 1975  
R. Chisholm, 'Human Freedom and the Self', Lindley Lecture 1964; repr. in Watson (ed.)

## 10. Happiness, Well-being, and the Meaning of Life

- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, bk. 1; bk. 10, chs. 6-9  
J. Griffin, *Well-Being*, pt. 1  
D. Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*, app. I  
L. W. Sumner, *Abortion and Moral Theory* (Princeton UP, 1981), ch. 5  
T. Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other*, ch. 3  
T. Metz, 'Recent Work on the Meaning of Life', *Ethics* 2002  
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H. Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics* (7th edn), ch. 14  
T. Hurka, *Perfectionism* (OUP, 1993), chs. 2, 7  
D. Haybron, 'What Do We Want from a Theory of Happiness?', *Metaphilosophy* 2002  
G.E. Moore, *Principia Ethica*, ch. 6  
S. Kagan, 'The Limits of Well-being', *Social Philosophy and Policy* 1992  
L.W. Sumner, *Welfare, Happiness, & Ethics* (Clarendon Press, 1996), ch. 6

## 11. Conscience, Guilt, and Shame

- Butler, *Sermons at the Rolls Chapel*, 1-3  
A. Donagan, 'Conscience', in L. & C. Becker (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Ethics*  
B. Williams, *Shame and Necessity* (UCal. Press, 1993), ch. 4; endnote 1  
R. Wollheim, *The Thread of Life* (CUP, 1984), ch. 7  
F. Nietzsche, *Genealogy of Morals*, Essay 2  
G. Taylor, *Pride, Shame, and Guilt* (Clarendon Press, 1985), chs. 3-4  
+++++  
S. Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, ch. 7  
J.D. Wallace, *Virtues and Vices* (Cornell UP, 1978), ch. 4  
H.A. Prichard, *Moral Obligation* (Clarendon Press, 1949), chs. 1-2  
J. Bennett, 'The conscience of Huckleberry Finn', *Philosophy* 1974  
R. Wollheim, *On the Emotions* (Yale UP), ch. 3  
H. Morris, 'Guilt and Shame', in his *On Guilt and Innocence* (UCal. Press, 1976)

## 12. Rights

- H.L.A. Hart, 'Are there any Natural Rights?', *Phil. Review* 1955; repr. in J. Waldron (ed.), *Theories of Rights* (OUP, 1984), as are ...
- R. Dworkin, 'Rights as Trumps', in Waldron (ed.)
- J. Waldron, 'Introduction' to Waldron (ed.)
- J. Griffin, *On Human Rights* (OUP, 2008), ch. 2
- J.L. Mackie, 'Can there be a Rights-based Moral Theory?', *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* 1978
- J. Raz, *The Morality of Freedom* (Clarendon Press, 1986), chs. 7-8
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- J. Thomson, *The Realm of Rights* (Harvard UP, 1990), chs. 1-2
- J. Feinberg, *Rights, Justice, and the Bounds of Liberty* (Princeton UP, 1980), ch. 7
- R. Frey, *Rights, Killing and Suffering* (Blackwell, 1983), chs. 7-9
- J. Finnis, *Natural Law and Natural Rights* (Clarendon Press, 1980), chs. 1, 2, 8
- C. Wellman, 'Seeking a Theory of Rights', in his *An Approach to Rights* (Kluwer, 1997)
- L.W. Sumner, *The Moral Foundation of Rights* (Clarendon Press, 1989), chs. 1, 2, 7