PHIL3000
Ethics 倫理學

Course Outline

Time: W 1:30pm-3:15pm   **Location: LSK 304**   **Tutorial time to be arranged**

Course overview

This course investigates basic concepts, problems and theories in ethics. The topics to be discussed are drawn from two main branches of ethics: (1) *normative ethics*, which explores first-order moral questions like "what has value?", "what traits of character are virtuous?", "what makes an action right or wrong?", and "what kind of political system is just?"; and 2) *metaethics*, which addresses second-order questions regarding the foundations of morality, including moral metaphysics, moral epistemology, and moral psychology.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes

1. To gain a basic understanding of metaethics and normative ethics.
2. To be able to articulate and evaluate major ethical theories.
3. To be able to think critically about moral issues.
4. To be able to construct clear and reasoned arguments.

Learning activities

1. Lecture: one 2-hour session every week.
2. Tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks.
3. Reading: around 30 pages of required reading every week.
4. Assignments: paper and exam.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	*Weight*
Tutorial (presentation: 10%; discussion: 20%)	30%
Paper (2,000 words in English or 4,000 words in Chinese; any topic of the course; due on March 27)	30%
Exam (April 17, in class)	40%

Required resources

R. Shafer-Landau, _The Fundamentals of Ethics_, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2012.

A. Fisher, _Metaethics_, Acumen Press, 2011.

Other selected readings

Recommended resources

H. LaFollette and I. Persson (eds.) _The Blackwell Guide to Ethical Theory_, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2013.

R. Shafer-Landau (ed.), _Ethical Theory: An Anthology_, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell Press, 2013.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (http://plato.stanford.edu)

Course schedule

Week	Topics	Required Reading	Tutorials
		Normative Ethics	
1	Ethical Theories (1): Consequentialism	Chapter 9 & 10, _The Fundamentals of Ethics_ Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism" (recommended)	
2	Ethical Theories (2): Deontology	Chapter 11 & 12, _The Fundamentals of Ethics_ Kamm, "Nonconsequentialism" (tutorial)	
3	Ethical Theories (3): Contractarianism	Chapter 13 & 14, _The Fundamentals of Ethics_ Sayre-McCord, "Contractarianism" (recommended)	
4	Ethical Theories (4): Virtue Ethics	Chapter 17, _The Fundamentals of Ethics_ Zhong, "A Confucian Virtue Theory of Supererogation" (tutorial)	
5	Lunar New Year		
6	Ethics in Politics (1): Liberty	Bird, "Liberty", from _An Introduction to Political Philosophy_ Waldron, "Liberalism, Political and Comprehensive" (recommended)	Kamm, "Nonconsequentialism"
7	Ethics in Politics: (2) Justice	Bird, "Economic Justice", from _An Introduction to Political Philosophy_ Parfit, "Equality and Priority" (tutorial)	

Metaethics			
8	Moral Nihilism	Chapter 3, *Metaethics* Mackie, "The Subjectivity of Values" (recommended)	Zhong, "A Confucian Virtue Theory of Supererogation"
9	Moral Relativism	Chapter 7, *Metaethics* Harman, "Moral Relativism Defended" (recommended)	
10	Moral Naturalism	Chapter 4, *Metaethics* Smith, "Moral Realism" (tutorial)	Parfit, "Equality and Priority"
11	Moral Non-naturalism	Chapter 5, *Metaethics* McMahan, "Moral Intuition" (tutorial)	
12	Moral Psychology	Chapter 8, *Metaethics* Wallace, "Moral Motivation" (recommended)	Smith, "Moral Realism"
13	Reading Week		
14	Review		McMahan, "Moral Intuition"
15	Exam		

Details of course website

Reading materials, assignments, and lecture notes will be put in a Dropbox folder. The link to this folder is posted on Blackboard.

Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

Teacher	
Name:	Zhong Lei
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TA	
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Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.