

ETHICS V83.0040

SYLLABUS

Chapter numbers below are from *Moral Philosophy: Selected Readings* (second edition), edited by George Sher.

Topic 1: Moral Truth and Objectivity

The Nature of Moral Facts

- Harman "Ethics and Observation" (Chapter 17)
- Mackie "The Subjectivity of Values" (Chapter 19)
- Harman "Moral Relativism"
- Nagel "Value" (Chapter 20)

Cognitivism vs Non-cognitivism.

- Hume "Morality and Natural Sentiment" (Chapter 8)
- Ayer "The Emotive Theory of Ethics" (Chapter 9)

Topic 2: Normative Ethics

Consequentialism and its Discontents

- Mill "Utilitarianism" (Chapter 23)
- Nozick "The Experience Machine" (Chapter 44)
- Parfit "What Makes Someone's Life Go Best?" (Chapter 49)
- Rawls "Classical Utilitarianism" (Chapter 26)
- Williams "A Critique of Utilitarianism" (Chapter 27)

Non-Consequentialist Views

- Kant "Morality and Rationality" (Chapter 30)
- Rawls "A Theory of Justice" (Chapter 34)

Topic 3: Applied Ethics

To be determined based on interests of the class.