



PHIL 503 Fall 2022
Wednesdays 2pm – 4:20pm
MHP 102
Jonathan Quong

Overview

In this class we will read and discuss a selection of important texts in value theory. We will concentrate on some issues in normative ethics and political philosophy.

Assessment and Required Work

Students registered for the class are required to write four short papers (each 2,000 words max). Students can choose to write their short papers in response to any of the weekly topics/readings. Short papers must be submitted *prior* to the relevant seminar. At least one paper must be submitted within the first four weeks of semester, and at least two papers must have been submitted within the first eight weeks.

Students will also be assessed on the basis of their participation in seminar discussions.

Four short papers	80% of grade
Seminar participation	20% of grade

Schedule of Topics and Readings

- Aug. 24 Required Reading:
- John Taurek, "Should the Numbers Count?" (1977)
- Aug. 31 Required Reading:
- John Rawls, "Two Concepts of Rules" (1955)
 - Peter Railton, "Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality" (1984)
- Sept. 7 Required Reading:
- Derek Parfit, *Reasons and Persons* (1982), chapters 16-17
- Sept. 14 Required Reading:
- T.M. Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other* (1998), Intro and chapter 5
- Sept. 21 Required Reading:
- Derek Parfit, *On What Matters* (2011), chapters 14, 16, 17
- Sept. 28 Required Reading:
- Alex Voorhoeve, "How Should We Aggregate Competing Claims?" (2014)
 - Patrick Tomlin, "Limited Aggregation" (2017)
- Oct. 5 Required Reading:
- Johann Frick, "Contractualism and Social Risk" (2015)
 - Joe Horton, "Aggregation, Complaints, and Risk" (2017)
- Oct. 12 Required Reading:
- J.J. Thomson, "The Trolley Problem" (1985)
 - J.J. Thomson, "Turning the Trolley" (2008)
- Oct. 19 Required Reading:
- J.J. Thomson, "Self-Defense" (1991)
 - Jeff McMahan, "The Moral Basis of Liability to Defensive Killing" (2005)

- Oct. 26 Required Reading:
- Ronald Dworkin, "What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources" (1982)
- Nov. 2 Required Reading:
- Elizabeth Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?" (1999)
- Nov. 9 Required Reading:
- Niko Kolodny, "Political Rule and Its Discontents" (2016)
 - Zofia Stemplowska and Adam Swift, "Dethroning Democratic Legitimacy" (2018)
- Nov. 16 Required Reading:
- Arthur Ripstein, "Authority and Coercion," (2004)
 - Arthur Ripstein, *Force and Freedom*, chapter 11 (2010)
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 30 Required Reading:
- Daniel Viehoff, "Legitimate Injustice and Acting for Others" (2022)