



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to Ethics & Political Philosophy - Part B - 15200

Last update 05-09-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dani Attas

Coordinator Email: daniel.attas@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof Daniel Attas

Course/Module description:

Part B of the course deals with the central issues of political philosophy philosophy: authority, liberty, justice; and of meta-ethics: realism, expressivism, error theory.

Course/Module aims:

acquaintance with the the fields of moral philosophy and with the central approaches within them.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

to define the central questions in contemporary ethics and political philosophy. to understand their theoretical and practical implications, and to critically evaluate the arguments for each position.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lecture

Course/Module Content:

A. Political Philosophy

1. authority
2. liberty
3. rights
4. equality and justice - Rawls
5. fraternity and justice - communitarianism
6. liberty and justice - libertarianism and property
7. responsibility and justice - luck egalitarianism and social egalitarianism

B. Metaethics

8. Open question argument and the naturalistic fallacy
9. emotivism
10. error theory

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11. naturalistic realism
 12. non-naturalistic realism
 13. quasi-realism

Required Reading:

T. Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Chs. 13-21.
R. Dworkin, *Law's Empire*, ch. 6
J.-J. Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I, Book II chs 1-4.
I. Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"
J. Locke, *Of Civil Government*, chs. 1-3, 7-9.
H.L.A. Hart "Are There Any Natural Rights?"
J. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA 1971/1999, §§1-9
M. Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1983, Ch. 1, pp. 3-30.
R. Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, Ch 7, section I, pp.
G. A. Cohen, "On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice", *Ethics* 99 (1989), pp.906-944.
Moore, G. E. (1903). *Principia Ethica*. Chapter 1, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, .
Ayer, A.J. (1936). *Language, Truth and Logic*. Chapter 6, Harmondsworth: Penguin.
Mackie, J. 1977. *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*. chapters 1 & 5. New York: Penguin.
Miller, A. 2010. "Realism": *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/realism/>
Shafer-Landau, R. 2003. *Moral Realism: A Defence*. Part I. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Shafer-Landau, R. 2003. *Moral Realism: A Defence*. chapter 3. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Miller, A. 2003. *An Introduction to Contemporary Metaethics*. Chapter 3-4, pp. 10-25. Oxford: Polity.
S. Blackburn, *A Very Short Introduction to Ethics*, Part one: "Seven threats to ethics", pp. 9-48.

Additional Reading Material:

none

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
none