INTRODUCTION TO MORAL PHILOSOPHY: Syllabus
We start with a few moral issues, including abortion and our obligations to others. We then take up issues about the nature of morality as a whole such as whether there is a single true morality. We end by considering moral theories that attempt to formulate basic principles of morality.

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday at 10 AM in Frick 120 (Kreske Auditorium)

Preceptors: Andrea Brewer, Cecilia Tilli, Gilbert Harman, Ada Fee, Keinan Greene, and Rachel Parsons. Precepts are arranged on Blackboard.

I. MORAL PROBLEMS
Thursday, September 16, Tradeoffs.
Thomson, “Killing, Letting Die, and the Trolley Problem,” chapter 61

Tuesday, September 21, Abortion and the sanctity of life.
Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion,” Blackboard Course Materials for this course.
Tooley, “Abortion and Infanticide,” chapter 46
Marquis, “An Argument that Abortion is Wrong,” chapter 47

Thursday, September 23, Obligations to others: parents, strangers.
Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality,” chapter 53
Harris, “The Survival Lottery,” chapter 54

Tuesday, September 28, Duties to animals
Kant, “We Have No Duties to Animals,” chapter 42
Singer, “All Animals Are Equal,” chapter 43

Thursday, September 30, Justice
Rawls, “A Theory of Justice,” chapter 64

Tuesday, October 5, Moral Responsibility
Taylor, "Determininism and the Theory of Agency," chapter 36
Nagel, "Moral Luck," chapter 39
Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment," chapter 41

II. META-ETHICS
Thursday, October 7, Analogies between moralities and languages.
3-5 paper due before class.
Tuesday, October 12, Religion and morality.
Plato, “Euthyphro,” chapter 23

Thursday, October 14, Moral nihilism.
Ayer, “A Critique of Ethics,” chapter 2
Mackie, “The Subjectivity of Values,” chapter 3

Tuesday, October 19, Emotivism. NO ACTUAL LECTURE TODAY.

Thursday, October 21, Impartial spectators.
Hume, “Of the Influencing Motives of the Will” and “Moral Distinctions Not Derived from Reason,” chapter 1
Firth, "Ethical Absolutism and the Ideal Observer," on Blackboard.

Tuesday, October 26, The “open question argument”
Moore, “The Subject Matter of Ethics,” chapter 6

Thursday, October 28, Morality as knowable a priori
Smith, “Realism,” chapter 9
Audi, "Moral Knowledge and Ethical Pluralism," chapter 13

<Midterm break>.

Tuesday, November 9, Moral relativism
Harman, “Moral Relativism Defended,” chapter 5
Shafer-Landau, “Ethics as Philosophy,” chapter 8

Thursday, November 11, Social conventions
Gauthier, “Why Contractarianism?” chapter 63
4-7 page paper due in lieu of midterm

Tuesday, November 16, Personal moralities

III. MORAL THEORIES
Thursday, November 18, Virtue
Hursthouse, “Normative Virtue Ethics,” chapter 68
Slote, “Agent Based Virtue Ethics,” chapter 69
Tuesday, November 23, Duty
Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals,” chapter 55
Korsgaard, “Kant’s Formula of the Universal Law,” chapter 56

Tuesday, November 30, Value
Nozick, “The Experience Machine,” chapter 30
Ross, “What Things Are Good,” chapter 34
Parfit, “What Makes Someone’s Life Go Best?” chapter 35

Thursday, December 2, Egoism
Feinberg, “Psychological Egoism,” chapter 19
Hunt, “Flourishing Egoism,” chapter 20
Rachels, “Ethical Egoism,” chapter 21

Tuesday, December 7, Utilitarianism
Mill, “Utilitarianism,” chapter 48
Smart, “Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism,” chapter 50

Thursday, December 9, Rational constraints
Nozick, “The Rationality of Constraints,” chapter 58

Tuesday, December 14, Justifying moral views
Sayre-McCord, “Coherentism and the Justification of Moral Beliefs,” chapter 14

Thursday, December 16, Short answer test

Tuesday, January 11, 7-10 page paper due in lieu of final exam.

READING/ REQUIREMENTS/ PAPERS/EXAMS/GRADING
Readings are either in Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.) Ethical Theory, which you can purchase at Labyrinth, or available on Blackboard. Attendance is required at all precepts and lectures. Assessment will be based on a 3-5 page paper due October 7, 2010 (15%), a 4-7 paper in lieu of a midterm due November 11, 2010 (20%), quizzes given in precept (10%), a one hour short answer test held in class on December 16, 2010 (25%), and a final paper of 7-10 pages in lieu of a final exam due January 11, 2011 (30%).

Beginning philosophy students are strongly encouraged to consult the following online resources to learn how to read philosophy books and articles and to write philosophy papers:
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html
http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html