BA Syllabus

Lecturers: Thomas Pink Email: tom.pink@kcl.ac.uk

Lecture Time: Mondays, 4-5pm Lecture Location: STND/ S-1.06

Module description
The module will introduce students to the ethical theories of 18th British Moral Philosophers, focusing on Hume, and will explain their significance for modern ethical theory. The course will relate their thought to continuing debates about moral rationality, moral objectivity, moral virtue and moral obligation.

Teaching arrangements
one one-hour lecture and one one-hour seminar per week for ten weeks

Assessment
Summative assessment: two x 2,000 word essays (100%)
Formative assessment: two x 1,500-word essays

Plagiarism Policy
We’re against it. What constitutes plagiarism? See here: http://www.kcl.ac.uk/schools/humanities/depts/philosophy/current/plagiarism.html

Lecture Schedule

Lecture 1 The Background to 18th Century Moral Philosophy
Lecture 2 Shaftesbury
Lecture 3 Mandeville
Lecture 4 Hutcheson
Lecture 5 Butler

Reading Week

Lecture 6 Hume – Reason and Passion
Lecture 7 Hume – Morality and Sentiment I
Lecture 8 Hume – Morality and Sentiment II
Lecture 9 Hume – Natural and Artificial Virtue
Lecture 10 Hume – Merit, Virtue and Talent
Primary Reading
- Students are expected to read all the primary material assigned for each meeting. For Part I, primary readings from ONE of the suggested edited collections is sufficient.

Secondary Reading
- There should be at least one physical copy available of all the books listed below in the Maughan Library or Senate House Library (including those that are also available online). All the other secondary materials listed are articles available online through your KCL username (or Athens) or through Senate House Library E-Collections. It is the student’s responsibility to acquire access to Senate House Library in time for the beginning of the course.

Readings – Part I

Primary Texts

OR


OR

L.A. Selby-Bigge (ed.) *British Moralists*

[NB – References below to readings for Part I are to the Schneewind (2003) collection, but any of the relevant portions of one of the three collections above will suffice]

General Reading


Reading – Part II

Primary Texts

*A Treatise of Human Nature*, (ed Selby-Bigge, OUP) esp:
- Book II Part 3 Of the will and direct passions
- Book III Of morals

*An Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals* (ed Selby Bigge, OUP)
'Of the standard of taste' and 'Of the original contract' in *Essays Moral, Political and Literary* (ed E. Miller, Liberty Classics)

**General Reading**

*Passion and Value in Hume's Treatise*, P. Ardal, Edinburgh 1966

*A Progress of Sentiments*, A. Baier, Harvard 1991


*The Pursuit of Certainty*, S. Letwin, Cambridge - chapter on Hume

*Hume's Moral Theory* J.L. Mackie, RKP 1980

*Hume*, B. Stroud, RKP 1977

**Lecture 1 – The Background to 18th Century Moral Philosophy**

**Required Reading**

*Hobbes*
Schneewind, 111-135

*Locke*
Schneewind, 183-186

**Further Reading**


Darwall 1995, Chs. 1, 2, 3 & 6.

Irwin 2008, Chs. 34, 35, 36 & 41.


Lecture 2 – Shaftesbury

Required Reading

Schneewind, pp. 483-501

Further Reading

Darwall 1995, Ch. 7.


Irwin 2008, Ch. 45.


Lecture 3: Mandeville

Required Reading

Schneewind, pp. 388-398.

Further Reading


Lecture 4: Hutcheson

Required Reading

Schneewind, pp. 503-524.

Further Reading

Darwall 1995, Ch. 8.


Lecture 5: Butler

**Required Reading**

Schneewind, pp. 525-544

**Further Reading**

Darwall 1995, Ch. 9.

Irwin 2008, Chs. 51-54.


Lecture 6: Hume – Reason and Passion

**Required reading**

*Treatise* Book 2, Part 3, Section 3 pp 413-418 *Of the influencing motives of the will*,

*Treatise* Book 3, Part 1, Section 1 *Moral Distinctions not deriv'd from Reason*

**Further reading**

'Morality as a system of hypothetical imperatives' P. Foot in *Virtues and Vices*


*The Possibility of Altruism*, T. Nagel Princeton 1970

'Internal and external reasons' B. Williams in *Moral Luck* Cambridge 1981

Lectures 7 and 8: Hume – Morality and Sentiment

**Required reading**
Treatise Book 3 Part 1 Of virtue and vice in general

Treatise Book 3 Part 3 section 1 Of the origin of the natural virtues and vices

Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals, section 5 Why utility please and appendix 1 Concerning moral sentiment

Further reading

Spreading the Word, S. Blackburn, esp chapters 5 and 6 Oxford 1984

Essays in Quasi-Realism S. Blackburn (EBL)

Reason and Morality A. Gewirth, Chicago 1978

'The compleat projectivist' R. Hale, Philosophical Quarterly vol 36 1986


'Kant's analysis of obligation', C. Korsgaard Monist 1989 and in Creating the Kingdom of Ends Cambridge 1996

The Possibility of Altruism, T. Nagel Princeton 1970

'Truth, invention and the meaning of life' and 'A sensible subjectivism' D. Wiggins in Needs, Values, Truth Blackwell 1987

Lecture 9: Hume – Natural and Artificial Virtue

Required reading

Treatise Book 3, part 2 Of justice and injustice

Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals, section 3 Of justice and appendix 3 Some farther considerations with regard to justice

Further reading

Theories of Justice B. Barry, University of California Press, 1989

Paradoxes of Rationality and Cooperation ed Richmond Campbell and Lanning Sowden, University of British Columbia Press, 1985

'Hume: norms and the obligation to be just' S. Darwall in his The British Moralists and the Internal 'Ought' Cambridge 1995
'David Hume: contractarian' D. Gauthier, *Moral Dealing* Cornell

*Convention*, D. Lewis, Blackwell 1969

*Utilitarianism*, JS Mill Chapter 5

*Justice* ed A. Ryan, OUP 1993


**Lecture 10: Hume – Merit, Virtue and Talent**

*Required reading*

*Enquiry concerning the Principles of Morals*, appendix 4, *Of some verbal disputes*

*Further reading*

'Virtues and vices' P Foot in *Virtues and Vices*


'Moral luck' B. Williams in *Moral Luck*

*Shame and Necessity* B. Williams California 1993