



INTRODUCTORY MORAL PHILOSOPHY

Prof. Joseph Schear

Length: 8 weeks

Structure:

- 1st Week: four lectures
- 2nd Week - 8th Week: seven tutorial sessions
- Four academic writing sessions (two compulsory, two optional)

Format: Seven one-hour tutorials occurring online on a weekly basis. Timings will be communicated separately.

Assessment: One 2000-word essay to be submitted **2 days** before the final tutorial.

Assessment Plan: Select your assessed essay title and provide a brief plan for it during tutorial 3.

Essay title options:

- *Your Tutor will set some topics once the programme has started.*



Tutorial 1

Title: Mills' Utilitarianism

Brief description: Distinction between higher and lower pleasures.

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Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Mill, JS. Utilitarianism, chs 2 & 4
- Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), chs. 2 and 3.

Tutorial 2

Title: Forms of Consequentialism

Brief description: Act-consequentialism vs. Rule-consequentialism.

Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Mill, JS. Utilitarianism, chs. 2, 3, & 5.
- John Rawls. "Two Concepts of Rules" In: The Philosophical Review 64 (1955)
- Roger Crisp. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), chapter 5



Tutorial 3

Title: Integrity and Alienation

Brief description: Are Williams' objections convincing?

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Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Williams, B. "A Critique of Utilitarianism", in Smart, J.J.C. & Williams, B. Utilitarianism: For and Against (CUP, 1973), esp. sects. 3-5
- Williams, B. "Persons, Character, and Morality", in Williams' Moral Luck
- Williams, B. "Utilitarianism and Moral Self-Indulgence", in Williams' Moral Luck
- This session will include a short discussion of the essay topic and plan with some guidance from the Tutor.

Tutorial 4

Title: Alternatives to Consequentialism

Brief description: Can consequentialism accommodate agent-relative restrictions?

Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Nagel, T., "Autonomy and Deontology", in Scheffler, S., ed., Consequentialism and Its Critics, (OUP, 1991), pp. 142-171.
- Roger Crisp. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), chapter 6



Tutorial 5

Title: The Proof of Utility

Brief description: Is Mill's proof convincing?

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Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Mill, J.S. chs 1 & 4
- Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997), ch. 4
- Moore, G.E. Principia Ethica (CUP, 1903), ch. 3

Tutorial 6

Title: Justice

Brief description: Is justice to be given up when inconvenient?

Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Mill J.S., ch. 5
 - John Rawls. A Theory of Justice OUP 1999, rev. edition; Ch. 1 (esp. §§ 5 & 6)
 - Crisp, R. Routledge Philosophy Guidebook to Mill on Utilitarianism (Routledge, 1997) ch. 7
- Essay submission 2 days before the final tutorial.

Tutorial 7

Title: Virtue

Brief description: Is virtue ethics better than utilitarianism?

Suggested reading:

Core reading:

- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, trans. T. Irwin (Hackett, 2nd edn., 1999), bk. 1, ch. 7; bk. 2, chs. 1-7
 - Foot, P. "Virtue and Vices", in her Virtues and Vices (Blackwell, 1978)
 - Foot, P. "Utilitarianism and the Virtues" in Consequentialism and its Critics, ed. S. Scheffler
- Discussion of the essay and feedback.