

Ethics

Graduate Seminar
Spring 2017
Marx 201
Princeton University
Wednesdays, 1:30-4:20pm

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In Part One of the course, we will investigate the following question:

- What is the relationship between what would be *best* to do and what one *should* do?
 - Douglas Portmore will argue that one always ought to take one's best option.
 - Elizabeth Harman will argue that there is no moral "ought" such that one always ought to take one's morally best option.
 - Caspar Hare will argue that, in many cases, one ought to create the best consequences, even if one must kill an innocent to save others – and that reasonable concern *for individuals* yields this result.

In Part Two of the course, we will investigate the following questions:

- Is there such a thing as *epistemic injustice*?
 - Miranda Fricker will argue that there is.
- If bias leads someone to dismiss another's testimony, thus mistreating her, is this mistreatment blameworthy?
- Can contempt be a morally good thing?
 - Macalester Bell will argue that it can.
- When is contempt morally warranted and appropriate?
- What is trust?
- When is trust warranted?
- Can attitudes of trust and distrust perpetuate bias and mistreatment?
 - Karen Jones will argue that they can.

Guest Professors

We will have six guest professors during the semester. Each guest professor is an author we are reading:

- Douglas Portmore, Arizona State University (a Laurance S. Rockefeller fellow at Princeton's Center for Human Values this year): February 22
- Joshua Gert, William and Mary: March 8
- Caspar Hare, Massachusetts Institute of Technology: March 15
- Miranda Fricker, City University of New York: April 5
- Macalester Bell, Bryn Mawr College: April 26
- Karen Jones, University of Melbourne (a Laurance S. Rockefeller fellow at Princeton's Center for Human Values this year): May 3

There will be small dinners with the guest professors on the days of their visits.

Thanks to the Department of Philosophy and the Center for Human Values for providing funding for these guest professors.

Mini-Conference

On the afternoon of Friday May 19 in New York City, our seminar will join up with Miranda Fricker's CUNY graduate seminar for a mini-conference on epistemic injustice. Four students from our seminar and four students from Fricker's seminar will present papers. Then we will all go out for dinner.

(We do not have funding for the mini-conference, but Princeton Philosophy graduate students can use their yearly travel budgets for train travel into New York. The dinner will be inexpensive.)

Course Schedule

Part One

Week One: Wednesday, February 8

- Douglas Portmore, "Opting For the Best" (Chapter 1 of his book manuscript)
- Miranda Fricker, selections from Epistemic Injustice

Please email eharman@princeton.edu for copies of the readings.

Week Two: Wednesday, February 15

- Douglas Portmore, "Which Options Are To Be Assessed in Terms of Their Own Goodness?" (Chapter 2 of his book manuscript Opting for the Best)
- Douglas Portmore, "What Are Our Options?" (Chapter 3 of Opting for the Best)

Week Three: Wednesday, February 22

Douglas Portmore (Arizona State University) will be a guest professor for this session.

- Douglas Portmore, “Practical Reasons and Performance Entailment”

Week Four: Wednesday, February 29

- Elizabeth Harman, “There is No Moral ‘Ought’ and No Prudential ‘Ought’”

Week Five: Wednesday, March 8

Joshua Gert (William and Mary) will be a guest professor for this session.

- Joshua Gert, “Underdetermination by Reasons”
- Joshua Gert, “Requiring and Justifying: Two Dimensions of Normative Strength”

Week Six: Wednesday, March 15

Caspar Hare (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) will be a guest professor for this session.

- Caspar Hare, selections from The Limits of Kindness

March 20-24: Spring Break

Part Two

Week Seven: Wednesday, March 29

- Miranda Fricker, selections from Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing

Week Eight: Wednesday, April 5

Miranda Fricker (City University of New York) will be a guest professor for this session.

- Miranda Fricker, selections from Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing

Week Nine: Wednesday, April 12

- Karen Jones, selections from book manuscript Counting on One Another: A Theory of Trust and Trustworthiness

Week Ten: Wednesday, April 19

- Macalester Bell, selections from Hard Feelings: The Moral Psychology of Contempt

Week Eleven: Wednesday, April 26

Macalester Bell (Bryn Mawr) will be a guest professor for this session.

- Macalester Bell, selections from Hard Feelings: The Moral Psychology of Contempt

Week Twelve: Wednesday, May 3

Karen Jones (University of Melbourne) will be a guest professor for this session.

- Karen Jones, selections from book manuscript Counting on One Another: A Theory of Trust and Trustworthiness

Friday, May 19, 1-6pm, at CUNY in New York City:

A mini-conference on epistemic injustice, with Miranda Fricker's seminar.

Followed by dinner.

Getting Credit for the Course

Graduate students in the philosophy department can take the course for credit to earn a unit in either of the following ways:

1. Do one class presentation, write one 5-6 page paper due in week six, and write one 15-20 page paper due during reading period (the week after classes end). (The longer paper can be an expansion of the shorter paper.)
2. Do one class presentation and take a written exam on the course material during reading period. (The exam can have an oral component if that is requested.)

Graduate students in other departments and undergraduate students can take the course for credit and get a grade by taking option 1 above.

Any student auditing the course can give a class presentation.