

This course will cover the central aspects of our practice of holding each other responsible.

**Essential Background Reading:**

Strawson, Peter F., 'Freedom and Resentment', *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 48 (1962): 1-25. Reprinted in his *Freedom and Resentment and Other Essays* (London: Routledge, 2008). Also available online at: <http://lib.myilibrary.com/ProductDetail.aspx?id=178684>.

**Week 1: Praising**

We typically think of moral responsibility as coming into play when someone has acted badly. But we also give credit to others when they act well and in doing so, we hold them morally responsible for it.

When do we deserve moral credit for what we have done? Does moral worth require moral knowledge?

*Essential Reading:*

Kant, Immanuel, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, edited by M.J. Gregor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), sect. 1. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511809576>.

Arpaly, Nomy, 'Moral Worth', *Journal of Philosophy*, 48 (2002): 223-45. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3655647>

*Further Reading:*

Markovits, Julia (2012). Saints, heroes, sages, and villains. *Philosophical Studies* 158 (2):289-311.

**Week 2 & 3: Blaming**

What exactly do we do when we blame others? Can it be irrational or unfair to blame someone? What does this tell us about the nature of blame? And why do we blame others in the first place?

*Essential Reading:*

Fricker, Miranda (2016). What's the Point of Blame? A Paradigm Based Explanation. *Noûs* 50 (1): 165-183.

Scanlon, T.M., *Moral Dimensions: Permissibility, Meaning, Blame* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2008), ch. 4 'Blame'.

*Further Reading:*

Pickard, Hanna (2013). Irrational blame. *Analysis* 73 (4):613-626.

Hieronymi, Pamela (2004). The force and fairness of blame. *Philosophical Perspectives* 18 (1):115-148.

**Week 4: Exempting**

Sometimes the circumstances of a wrongdoer are such that ascriptions of moral responsibility seem altogether misplaced. When does this happen? And what does it tell us about our practice of moral responsibility?

*Essential Reading:*

Watson, Gary, 'Responsibility and the Limits of Evil: Variations on a Strawsonian Theme', in F. Schoeman, ed., *Responsibility, Character, and the Emotions* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 256-86. Reprinted in his *Agency and Answerability: Selected Essays* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 2004), pp. 219-59. Also available online at: <http://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199272273.003.0009>.

Wolf, Susan, 'Sanity and the Metaphysics of Responsibility', in F. Schoeman, ed., *Responsibility, Character, and the Emotions* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 46-62. Also in R. Shafer-Landau, ed., *Ethical Theory: An Anthology* (Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013), pp. 330-39.

### **Week 5: Excusing**

What is an excuse? And what does it mean to have an excuse? Does moral ignorance excuse?

#### *Essential Reading:*

Austin, John (1956). A plea for excuses. *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 57:1--30.

Rosen, Gideon (2008). Kleinbart the oblivious and other tales of ignorance and responsibility. *Journal of Philosophy* 105 (10):591-610.

#### *Further Reading:*

Wallace, Jay, *Responsibility and the Moral Sentiments* (Harvard University Press, 1994), Chapter 5

### **Week 6: Apologizing & Forgiving**

Generally, when we offer an apology, we hope that we will be forgiven. What exactly does forgiving involve? And why do apologies give reason to forgive?

#### *Essential Reading:*

Calhoun, Cheshire (1992). Changing one's heart. *Ethics* 103 (1):76-96.

Martin, Adrienne M. (2010). Owning up and lowering down: The power of apology. *Journal of Philosophy* 107 (10):534-553.

#### *Further Reading:*

Hieronymi, Pamela (2001). Articulating an uncompromising forgiveness. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 62 (3):529-555.