

Ethics | PIP77062

Year	MPhil
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Prof. Farbod Akhlaghi
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Module Outline:

What are debates over ‘the metaphysics of morality’ about? What consequences do views of the nature and methodology of metaphysics more generally have for meta-ethics? And what is the relationship between ethics and meta-ethics? In this module, these and related questions will guide our exploration of several contemporary problems in meta-ethics – specifically regarding the metaphysics of morality – where we will focus upon what these debates reveal about the assumptions that shape contemporary meta-ethics. We will cover recent developments in metaphysical debates in meta-ethics over, for example, moral supervenience, grounding, and truthmaking, both to explore these topics for their own sake and to identify and assess the methodological and other assumptions that underlie inquiry into the nature of morality. The aim will be for students to develop their own ideas not only within meta-ethics but about what we are doing when we do meta-ethics.

Assessment:

This module is assessed by one 3000-word coursework essay. The word-count is inclusive of footnotes but not of the bibliography.

The topic of the coursework essay is chosen by each student. The topic must, however, be agreed upon with me, and, at least three weeks before the deadline, the student should send a 300-500 word abstract to me as part of agreeing upon their essay topic. The topic of their essay must relate to at least one of the topics covered in the module itself.

Recommended Reading List:

A full reading list will be made available at the start of the module. But for preparatory reading, see:

- Akhlaghi, Farbod. (Forthcoming). Meta-Ethical Quietism? Wittgenstein, Relaxed Realism, and Countercultures in Meta-ethics. In *Wittgenstein and Contemporary Moral Philosophy*, edited by R. Cosker-Rowland & J. Beale. Routledge (available on PhilPapers)



- McPherson, Tristram & David Plunkett. (2017). The Nature and Explanatory Aims of Metaethics. In *The Routledge Handbook of Metaethics*. Edited by T. McPherson and D. Plunkett. Routledge: pp. 1–25.
- Schroeder, Mark. (2017). Normative Ethics and Metaethics. In *The Routledge Handbook of Metaethics*. Edited by T. McPherson and D. Plunkett. Routledge: pp. 674–686.