Advanced Topics in Value Theory II | PIU44172

Year	Senior Sophister
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 (11 x 2-hour seminars)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. Pablo Magana Fernandez
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Module Outline

Why, if at all, would human extinction be regrettable, even if no living being suffered in the process? Do ecosystems and other natural entities matter morally for their own sake, even if they are not sentient? What, if anything, makes work valuable—or meaningful? Would it better if we had never been born? This module will address controversies in applied value theory such as these, alongside others. After briefly introducing some important distinctions and terminology from value theory, we will discuss particular cases where philosophers (and, quite often, also citizens more generally) disagree about whether (and, if so, how and why) we should value—or disvalue—certain things.

Assessment:

2 x Essays: 1 mid-module (50%) and 1 end of module (50%).

Recommended Reading:

- An extensive reading list will be provided at the start of the module. In the meantime, here are some useful (and fairly general) introductory materials:
- Korsgaard, Christine M. 1983. Two Distinctions in Goodnes, *The Philosophical Review* 92(2): 169-195.
- Hirose, Iwao and Jonas Olson (eds.). 2015. *The Oxford Handbook of Value Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (Section III, on "applied value theory," might be of special interest).
- Schroeder, Mark. 2021. Value Theory. In Zalta, Edward N. (ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Fall Edition), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2021/entries/value-theory/>.

- Zimmerman, Michael J. and Ben Bradley. 2019. Intrinsic vs. Extrinsic Value. In Zalta, Edward N. (ed.), *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring Edition), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2019/entries/value-intrinsic-extrinsic/>.