

Phil 465a/665a Fall 2014
Recent Work in Ethical Theory
T 7:00-8:50 pm
Stephen Darwall
306 CH W 1:30 to 3:30pm and by appt
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This course will consist in a close reading of three recent books in ethical theory that span issues in normative ethics and metaethics:

Julia Markovits, *Moral Reason* (MR), Oxford University Press, 2014

T. M. Scanlon, *Being Realistic About Reasons* (BRR), Oxford University Press, 2014

R. Jay Wallace, *The View From Here: On Attachment, Affirmation, and the Limits of Regret* (VFH), Oxford University Press, 2013

These will be accompanied by relevant associated readings.

The first two books focus on fundamental metaethical (metaphysical and epistemological) issues about the nature of reasons and moral reasons. And the last focuses more on normative issues about the relation of central ethical ideas to the perspectival character of ethical experience. All three are available through the Yale Bookstore.

Students will write 3 (2-3 page) response papers, sent by email to me by 5 pm on Monday preceding the seminar—so $\frac{1}{4}$ of the class will have response papers due in any given week. These should take up and critically engage some point or points from the reading for that week. The idea is not to summarize the reading, but to dig deeply into some aspect of it, trying to understand it better, raise criticisms, consider how the author might respond to the criticisms, and so on.

Students will also write a 15-20-page essay on a topic of their choosing relevant to the class.

Deadlines:

November 11, 5 pm: all students clear topics with me

December 3, 11:59 pm: grad students: first draft due

December 12, 11:59 pm: undergrads: final paper due

December 17, 11:59 pm: grad students: final papers due

Grades: 20% response papers, 20% seminar participation, 60% final paper.

September 2	Introduction
September 9	MR 1-50 Bernard Williams, "Internal vs. External Reasons"
September 16	MR 26-50 (again), 51-70 Derek Parfit, <i>On What Matters</i> (selection)
September 23	MR 71-144 Darwall, "Because I Want It"
September 30	MR 145-196 Darwall, <i>The Second-Person Standpoint</i> (selection)
October 7	BRR 1-16 Darwall, <i>Impartial Reason</i> (selection)
October 14	BRR 16-68
October 21	BRR 69-104
October 28	BRR 105-123
November 4	VFH 3-77
November 11	VFH 78-131 (possibly to be rescheduled)
November 18	VFH 132-185
December 2	VFH 186-262