

# PHIL 1304

## Morality & Justice

office hours: MWF 9:30-11 am  
only on Zoom (ID: 591 824 3118)

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Fall 2020 Hybrid – CRN 89005 – MWF 11:15-12:05 – [Canvas website](#) ↗

### FORMAT

- ❖ **Hybrid class format** (after Sep. 14) to maximize public health and safety:
  - Mondays – students in Group 1 meet in **TORG 1060**, while Group 2 joins us live via Zoom
  - Wednesdays – same format as Monday, but with Group 2 in class and Group 1 on Zoom
  - Fridays – all students meet synchronously (live) on Zoom. Meeting ID: **946 4193 8971**.
- ❖ **Read these two PDF files** before class begins:
  - [VT's Public Health Guidelines](#). ↗ This document describes your rights and duties as VT students.
  - [PHIL 1304 Hybrid Class Policies](#). ↗ This document describes my specific rules for this course.

### GOALS

#### What is the Right? What is the Good? What is Justice?

This course surveys the essential elements in **moral philosophy** (the study of good conduct) and **political philosophy** (the study of justice).

Topics will include how theories of the Good are developed; how governments foster or hinder the pursuit of justice; whether value-pluralism leads to relativism; and how class, gender, race, ability, and citizenship affect the power structures that regulate our lives.

Specific moral controversies that we will discuss will include public health, free speech, gender and racial justice, individualism vs. collectivism, anti-fascism, and environmental activism.

- ❖ Please send me **SSD accommodations** to sign by Sep. 2.
- ❖ Students must respect the Honor System. Find out more [here](#). ↗
- ❖ Students agree to abide by VT's Wellness principles. If you exhibit even very slight signs of illness, you must not attend class in person. Notify me by email and follow the instructions posted [here](#). ↗

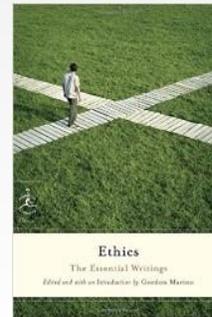
### BOOKS

#### **BOTH BOOKS ARE REQUIRED!**

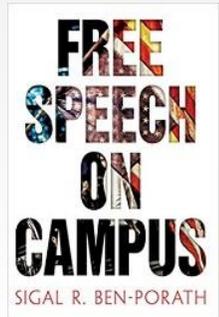
Any edition is fine, e-books included.

Bring the book to class whenever a reading is assigned from it.

If you can't procure one of these books, let me know and I'll help you find it.



***Ethics: The Essential Writings***  
Gordon Marino, ed.



Sigal R. Ben-Porath  
***Free Speech on Campus***

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### **Tests** (40%)

Four, online, open-notes, timed: 120 minutes each.

Tests are mostly multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching.

#### **Outlines** (20%)

Bullet-point summaries of all assigned readings, plus your own original discussion question.

Must be turned in on Canvas on each class day before 11:15 a.m.

#### **Discussion** (20%)

Participate regularly in class, during the Zoom meetings, and on the Canvas forums.

Both the quality and the quantity of your participation matter.

#### **Project** (20%)

Choose among four options: final exam, research paper, art portfolio, or some hours of community service.

Must be pre-approved by November 13.

# READING SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

## HOW TO FIND THE READINGS:

(E) = in the *Ethics* reader (B) = in the *Ben-Porath* book (C) = on Canvas under *Files*

(W) = on external websites: click on [links](#) to open (M) = movies: click [links](#) to see streaming options

Readings, movies, and assignments must be completed by the day that they are assigned for.

Outlines are due on Canvas under *Assignments* on each class day before 11:15 a.m.

## 1. Moral Philosophy: The Good and the Right

Public health	♦ Mon, Aug. 24		Course presentation.	
	♦ Wed, Aug. 26	(W)	<b>Sikkink</b> : <a href="#">Rights &amp; responsibilities in the coronavirus pandemic</a>	
		(C)	<b>Kramer, Brown &amp; Kopar</b> : Ethics in the time of coronavirus	
	♦ Fri, Aug. 28	(W)	VT response: <a href="#">enforcement policy</a> and <a href="#">Tim Sands 8/18 letter</a>	
Moral theories	♦ Mon, Aug. 31	(E)	<b>Mill</b> : <i>Utilitarianism</i>	pp.228-234, 249-255
	♦ Wed, Sep. 2	(E)	<b>Kant</b> : <i>Fundamental Principles</i>	pp.217-224
	♦ Fri, Sep. 4	(E)	<b>Aristotle</b> : <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	Book II §1,4,5,7,8,9
	♦ Mon, Sep. 7		No class. Labor day.	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 9	(C)	<b>Held</b> : The ethics of care	
	♦ Fri, Sep. 11	(E)	<b>Epictetus</b> : <i>The Enchiridion</i>	§1-12,30,33,44-46,50,51

**FIRST EXAM** due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Sun, Sep. 13** at 11:59 p.m.

## 2. Political Philosophy: Liberty and Justice

Liberty, power, and justice	♦ Mon, Sep. 14	(W)	<b>Carter</b> : <a href="#">Positive and negative liberty</a>	§1
	♦ Wed, Sep. 16	(E)	<b>Hobbes</b> : <i>Leviathan</i>	pp.139-148
	♦ Fri, Sep. 18	(E)	<b>Rawls</b> : <i>A Theory of Justice</i>	§3,11
	♦ Mon, Sep. 21	(C)	<b>Hospers</b> : What libertarianism is	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 23	(C)	<b>Nielsen</b> : A moral case for socialism	
	♦ Fri, Sep. 25	(C)	<b>Moehler</b> : An unconditional subsistence income	
		(C)	<b>Yang</b> : Universal basic income in the real world	
Feminism and anti-racism	♦ Mon, Sep. 28	(W)	<b>McAfee</b> : <a href="#">Feminist philosophy</a>	§2.1, 2.2
	♦ Wed, Sep. 30	(W)	<b>Moller Okin</b> : <a href="#">Is multiculturalism bad for women?</a>	
	♦ Fri, Oct. 2	(C)	<b>Rothman</b> : Decriminalization of commercial sex?	
		(C)	<b>Sánchez</b> : Ethical considerations of pornography	
	♦ Mon, Oct. 5	(W)	<b>James</b> : <a href="#">Philosophy of race</a>	§2,3,4
	♦ Wed, Oct. 7	(C)	<b>Chemerinsky</b> : Making sense of affirmative action	
♦ Fri, Oct. 9	(C)	<b>Davis</b> : The prison-industrial complex (or watch <a href="#">13th</a> )		

**SECOND EXAM** due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Sun, Oct. 11** at 11:59 p.m.

### 3. Morality and Justice in the Real World

Poverty relief & development aid	♦ Mon, Oct. 12	(E)	<b>Singer:</b> Rich and poor
	♦ Wed, Oct. 14	(C)	<b>Nagel:</b> Poverty and food: why charity is not enough
	♦ Fri, Oct. 16		No class. Fall break.
Bodily autonomy and abortion	♦ Mon, Oct. 19	(E)	<b>Thomson:</b> A defense of abortion
	♦ Wed, Oct. 21	(C)	<b>Warren:</b> On the moral and legal status of abortion
	♦ Fri, Oct. 23	(C)	<b>Foot:</b> Killing and letting die
Nationalism and anti-fascism	♦ Mon, Oct. 26	(C)	<b>Eco:</b> Ur-fascism
	♦ Wed, Oct. 28	(C)	<b>Fanon:</b> On violence
		(C)	<b>Torres:</b> Crossroads of the Church
	♦ Fri, Oct. 30	(M)	Watch movie: <i>Black Panther</i> <a href="#">↗</a>

**THIRD EXAM** due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Sun, Nov. 1** at 11:59 p.m.

Perspectives #1: society	♦ Mon, Nov. 2	(C)	<b>Carens:</b> Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders
	♦ Wed, Nov. 4	(C)	<b>Purnell:</b> How I became a police abolitionist
	♦ Fri, Nov. 6	(C)	<b>Davis:</b> Abolitionist alternatives to prisons
Perspectives #2: environment	♦ Mon, Nov. 9	(E)	<b>Regan:</b> The case for animal rights
	♦ Wed, Nov. 11	(M)	Watch movie: <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> <a href="#">↗</a>
	♦ Fri, Nov. 13	(C)	<b>Löwy:</b> What is ecosocialism?
Perspectives #3: technology	♦ Mon, Nov. 16	(C)	<b>Chiang:</b> Liking what you see: a documentary
	♦ Wed, Nov. 18	(C)	<b>Barfoot:</b> Stem cells science and ethics
	♦ Fri, Nov. 20	(W)	<b>van den Hoven:</b> <i>Privacy &amp; information technology</i> <a href="#">↗</a>

pp.35-42  
§1-2

**FOURTH EXAM** due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Sun, Nov. 22** at 11:59 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 21-29**

### 4. Speech, Choice, and Action

Free speech and dignity	♦ Mon, Nov. 30	(B)	<b>Ben-Porath:</b> <i>Free Speech on Campus</i>	ch.1-2
	♦ Wed, Dec. 2	(B)	<b>Ben-Porath:</b> <i>Free Speech on Campus</i>	ch.3-4
	♦ Fri, Dec. 4	(W)	<i>Community Principles</i> <a href="#">↗</a> – Pol. 1025 <a href="#">↗</a> – Sands letter <a href="#">↗</a>	
Choice & action	♦ Mon, Dec. 7	(E)	<b>Wolf:</b> Moral saints	
	♦ Wed, Dec. 9	(C)	<b>Le Guin:</b> The ones who walk away from Omelas	

**TERM PROJECT** due on Canvas under *Quizzes* or *Assignments* no later than **Sun, Dec. 15** at 11:59 p.m.