

# Naturalism and Normativity

## UFOP (June-July 2018)

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This course offers an introduction to “metaethical naturalism” and to some of its strengths and weaknesses. The primary texts and the course’s methodology will be representative of contemporary analytic philosophy, with their focus on the conceptual analysis of ethical discourse and on the logical evaluation of various arguments. Students will be evaluated on the basis of their reading comprehension and on the basis of a concluding writing project. All the texts, listed below, will be available in advance in pdf format. Students must be capable of reading, writing, speaking, and understanding English.

### Tentative Schedule

#### Week 1: Metaethical Naturalism and Normativity.

*Day 1 (18/06): Introduction to Metaethical Naturalism*

1. Alexander Miller (2013) “Introduction” in Alexander Miller *Contemporary Metaethics: an Introduction*. Polity Press: 22-35.
2. Jussi Suikkanen (2016) “Naturalism in Metaethics” in Kelly James Clark (ed.), *Blackwell Companion to Naturalism*. Wiley-Blackwell: 351-368.

*Day 2 (19/06): Introduction to Normativity*

3. Allan Gibbard (2006) “Normative Properties” in Terry Horgan and Mark Timmons (eds.) *Metaethics After Moore*. Oxford University Press: 319-338.
4. Stephen Finlay (forthcoming) “Defining Normativity” in Kevin Toh, David Plunkett and Scott Shapiro (eds.), *Dimensions of Normativity: New Essays on Metaethics and Jurisprudence*. Oxford University Press.

#### Week 2: Realist Naturalism

*Day 3 (25/06): Non-Reductive Naturalism*

5. Nicholas Sturgeon (1988) “Moral Explanations” in Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (ed.) *Essays on Moral Realism*. Cornell University Press: 229-255.
6. Richard Boyd (1988) “How to be a Moral Realist” in Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (ed.) *Essays on Moral Realism*. Cornell University Press: 181-228.

*Day 4 (26/06): Reductive Naturalism*

7. Peter Railton (1986). “Moral Realism,” *Philosophical Review* 95 (2): 163-207.
8. Mark Schroeder (2007) - “Reduction of the Normative” in *Slaves of the Passions*. Oxford University Press: 61-83.

### **Week 3: Challenges to Metaethical Naturalism**

#### *Day 5 (02/07): Challenges*

9. Jean Hampton (1998) "Reason's Authority" in *The Authority of Reason*. Cambridge University Press: 83-115.
10. Derek Parfit (2011) - "Non-Analytical Naturalism" in *On What Matters, Vol. II*. Oxford University Press: 295-327.

#### *Day 6 (03/07): Replies*

11. Janice Dowell and David Sobel (2015) "Advice for Non-Analytical Naturalists" in Simon Kirchin (ed.) *Reading Parfit*. Routledge: 153-171.
12. Tristan McPherson (forthcoming) - "Explaining Practical Normativity". Topoi.

### **Week 4. Challenges to Metaethical Realism**

#### *Day 7 (09/07): Challenges*

13. Richard Joyce (2006). "The Evolutionary Debunking of Morality" in *The Evolution of Morality*. MIT Press: 179-219.
14. Sharon Street (2006), "A Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value," *Philosophical Studies*, 127: 109–66.

#### *Day 8 (10/07): Replies*

15. David Copp (2008) "Darwinian Skepticism about Moral Realism," *Philosophical Issues* 18: 186–206.
16. William Fitzpatrick (2015). "Debunking Evolutionary Debunking of Ethical Realism," *Philosophical Studies* 172(4): 883-904.

## **Additional Bibliography**

### **Introductory Texts:**

Alexander Miller (2013). *Contemporary Metaethics: an Introduction*. Polity Press.  
Mark van Roojen (2015). *Metaethics: A Contemporary Introduction*. Routledge.  
Matthew Chrisman (2016). *What is This Thing Called Metaethics?* Routledge.

### **Important Collections and Monographs:**

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (1988). *Essays on Moral Realism*. Cornell University Press.  
Christine Korsgaard (1996). *The Sources of Normativity*. Cambridge University Press.  
Jean Hampton (1998). *The Authority of Reason*. Cambridge University Press.  
Terry Horgan and Mark Timmons (2006). *Metaethics After Moore*. Oxford University Press.  
Richard Joyce (2006). *The Evolution of Morality*. MIT Press.  
Mark Schroeder (2007). *Slaves of the Passions*. Oxford University Press.  
Derek Parfit (2011). *On What Matters, Vols. I and II*. Oxford University Press  
Kelly James Clark (2016). *Blackwell Companion to Naturalism*. Wiley-Blackwell.