COURSE OVERVIEW
This is a graduate level course that examines the fundamentals of Immanuel Kant’s moral philosophy (i.e. his ethics), as well as historical and contemporary criticisms of Kant’s ethics. Topics are organized thematically and, to a lesser extent, historically.

LEARNING GOALS
In this course, students will (at a minimum) acquire or expand upon their knowledge of Kant’s ethics; acquire or expand upon their knowledge of historical and contemporary criticisms of Kant’s ethical theory; develop their skills in textual analysis and philosophical discussion; and produce a research-length essay on a topic inspired by the class discussion.

EXPECTATIONS
Lecture and Discussion – In this graduate level course, students are expected to come to class having done the reading carefully and, at a minimum, ready to ask well-formulated questions about the text in class. Students should always have the required readings for that class session with them in class. It is typical for students in philosophy seminars to annotate their readings before class and during class discussion.

Readings – Please note that some readings on the schedule are longer than others. You may want to plan in advance so that you have time to complete the readings on time. You may also want to read ahead if you think that you might like to write a term paper on a topic discussed later in the course.

EVALUATION
Class Participation (25%) – Minimally, this includes coming to class prepared (see above), and a presentation of your term paper during the last week of class. It also includes meeting with me in late March/early April to discuss your term paper plan.

Term Paper: (75%) A paper of roughly 5,000 words, due Monday April 30. This is a firm deadline for anyone graduating in May. Others must contact me by April 23 to request an extension.

TEXTS
Required readings marked with an (L) on the course schedule below will be available on the course’s LATTE page.

You should buy (new or used), rent, or borrow the following texts. These texts are not available at the bookstore; I leave it to you to find the best deals.
A note on translation: when a text has been translated, please use the translation listed on the syllabus. It will help our class discussions if we all have the same translation to refer to.

(1) Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, translated by Jens Timmermann and Mary Gregor (CUP 2011, 2013). You may either use the 'facing page' edition with the original text included, or you may use the paperback, English-only edition.


(6) W.D. Ross, *The Right and the Good* (any edition is fine, I use Clarendon 2002)

COMMUNICATION

Please make sure that you check the email associated with your LATTE registration on a regular basis. This is how I will send messages about the class, including any messages about late starts or canceled classes.

DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see Prof. Moran immediately.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Never represent work or ideas that are not your own as your own. Always use proper citation techniques, even when you are not quoting another author directly. All instances of suspected academic dishonesty will be forwarded immediately to the Director of Academic Integrity.

COURSE SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 11 – FEBRUARY 1:** A Brief Introduction to Kant’s Moral Theory

January 11 & 16: Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Introduction and Section 1

January 23 & 25: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Section II

January 30 & February 1: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Section III
February 6 & 8: The Right and the Good
   Pistorius, Review of the Groundwork (L)
   Kant, Critique of Practical Reason, V 3–14, 57–65 (L)

Suggested Secondary Reading:

February 13 & 15: Moral Psychology I
   Schiller, On Grace and Dignity 123–70 (L)
   Williams, "Persons, Character, and Morality" (L)

Suggested Secondary Readings:
   Marcia Baron, Kantian Ethics Almost Without Apology, ch 4
   Jens Timmermann, 'Schiller's Scruples of Conscience' in Kant’s Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals: A Commentary (Appendix A)

February 20 & 22: February Break

February 27 & March 1: Moral Psychology II
   Schopenhauer, On the Basis of Morals

Suggested Secondary Reading:

March 6 & 8: The Empty Formalism Objection
   Hegel, G.W.F. - "The Scientific Ways of Treating Natural Law, Its Place in Moral Philosophy, and Its Relation to the Positive Sciences of Law in Hegel, Natural Law."

Suggested Reading:
March 13 & 15: **Kant and Consequentialism**

J.S. Mill, Utilitarianism, chs. 1 and 5

*Suggested Secondary Readings:*


Derek Parfit, *On What Matters*, OUP, 2011 (chs 16 and 17)

March 20 & 22: **Freedom of the Will**

Henry Sidgwick, "Appendix: On Kant's Conception of Free Will" in *The Methods of Ethics*. (L, but everyone should have a copy!)

March 27 & 29: **Intuitionism**

H.A. Prichard, *Moral Obligation*

W.D. Ross, *The Right an the Good* (selections)

April 3 & 5: **Passover Break**

April 10 & 12: **Autonomy**


*Suggested Reading:*


April 17 & 19: **Kant and Feminist Philosophy**

Sally Sedgwick, "Can Kant's Ethics Survive the Feminist Critique?" (L)

Marcia Baron, "Kantian Ethics and Claims of Detachment" (L)

April 24 & 26: **Paper Presentations**