


## Readings and Assignments: Weeks One-Six

If you miss a class, check these *Readings and Assignments* handouts for assignments or handouts.

If you have questions about an assignment after class has adjourned, I prefer that you ask through the *Course Website* Bulletin Board so that all can benefit.

**If I make a special arrangement with you for due dates, etc., explain it in a note or e-mail message and ask me to sign or confirm it; show it to me to remind me of our arrangement.**

 indicates a handout in class.

 indicates material from *Philosophy 110 Course Pack* and also available at *Course Website*.

"Rachels" refers to course text: James Rachels & Stuart Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*.

### Contents and Major Due Dates

In deference to our leaf-bearing friends, *Readings and Assignments* is handed out in instalments in case there are revisions as we go along, as there often are.

However, *Readings and Assignments* for the whole course is at the *Course Website*—just treat it as open to revision. Major due dates are listed below.


#### **What is philosophy and how do you do it?**

1. Wednesday/Friday, September 9/11;
2. Wednesday/Friday, September 16/18

#### **What makes life worth living, i.e., what gives value to our lives?**

2. Wednesday/Friday, September 16/18
3. Wednesday/Friday, September 23/25
4. Wednesday/Friday, September 30/October 2

#### **Are judgments about value and ethics objective—i.e., are they true or false—or are they relative to society or to individuals?**

3. Wednesday/Friday, September 23/25
4. Wednesday/Friday, September 30/October 2
5. Wednesday/Friday, October 7/9 : **DUE: *Second Essay* preferences.**
6. Wednesday/Friday, October 14/16 : **DUE: Draft of  *First Essay*.**

#### **How should we treat others, i.e., what morality, if any, should govern our actions towards each other?**

5. Wednesday/Friday, October 7/9 : **DUE: *Second Essay* preferences.**
6. Wednesday/Friday, October 14/16 : **DUE: Draft of *First Essay***
7. Wednesday/Friday, October 21/23 :
8. Wednesday/Friday, October 28/30 : **DUE: *First Essay*.**
9. Wednesday/Friday, November 4/6 : **DUE: Draft of *Second Essay* steps 1, 3, 4**

#### **Why do we have politics, e.g., what essential functions, if any, do political institutions such as the state perform?**

- November 11: Remembrance Day
10. Wednesday/Friday, November None/13
  11. Wednesday/Friday, November 18/20
  12. Wednesday/Friday, November 25/27:
  13. Wednesday/Friday, December 2/4: **DUE: *Second Essay*.**

**DUE Final Exams Period: *Examination*; See  1.6 *Previous Exam Questions*.**

**1. Wednesday/Friday, September 9/11****What is philosophy and how do you do it?**

- 📖 *Introductory Questions: Survey*
- 📖 *Introductory Questions: Personal*
- 📖 *Brief Course Description*
- 📖 *Readings and Assignments: Weeks One-Six* (this handout)
- 📖📖 *2.1 Nature of Philosophy: Summary*
- The Trial of Socrates* videotape

**Assignment for next session**

**DO** 📖 *Introductory Questions: Personal.*

**READ** 📖 1.1 *Introduction: Philosophy 110,*  
📖 1.2 *Course Description.*

**READ** 📖 1.4 *Methods of Inquiry,*  
📖 1.5 *Writing without Gender Bias.*

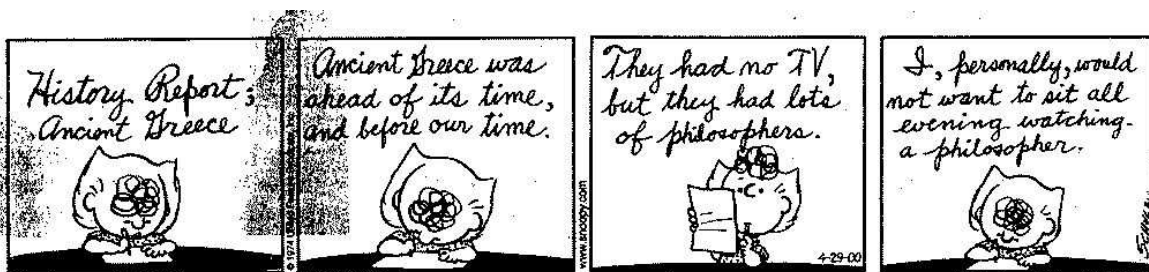
**LOOK AT** 1.7 *Framework for Moral and Political Decisions.*

**READ** 📖 2.3 *Does Philosophy Matter?;*

📖 2.2 *Plato: excerpt from Republic, Book VII: Allegory of the Cave*

(also at <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.html>: Read beginning of Plato's Republic, Book VII, to "They are the men, and I will choose them, he replied."), and **take notes** (not to turned in) on the following:

1. Identify at least five different locations-situations-roles in [Socrates'](#) description of the Cave.
2. In our society, what occupations—if any—can be found in these locations-situation-roles?

**DUE NEXT SESSION: The Good Life: Individual Prep Questions**

Answer the following four questions in no more than about 100 words for each. The questions focus on model and contrary cases of what has **value** for you. Answer them as if you were answering them **to yourself**. (Of course, you may not want to reveal that much of yourself to me. That's fine. You are also **not required** to confess your answers in class.)

In so few words, you will probably not be able to give definitive answers to each of these questions, but do attempt to express your views as **clearly** as possible and to state a couple of your major **reasons** (including examples) for holding your view.

Your answers will be marked according to their clarity and coherence.

***Assignment continued on next page...***

**1. What is the best thing that could happen in your life?**

Some further questions to **consider** in order to answer this question—you need not explicitly answer each of these questions:

Is there only one best thing?

Is the best thing something in the past, present, or future?

Is the best thing:

accomplishing something such as being Prime Minister or living a long life;

possessing an object such as a house or a million dollars;

having an experience such as making love or living an exciting life;

having a character trait such as being wise or courageous?

Is the best thing something you would strive for if you were to find out you had only a short time to live?

**2. What is the worst thing that could happen in your life?**

Consider the appropriate versions of the subsidiary questions under question 1 above.

Consider whether there are any circumstances in which you would consider committing suicide.


**3. Is there anything that you would be willing to die for? If so, what? If not, why not?****4. When you are dead, how would you like to be remembered? For example, what would you like others to say about you?****2. Wednesday/Friday, September 16/18****What is philosophy and how do you do it?**

Questions about *Course Description*?

The Cave: Co-op Work

*Methods of Inquiry & Co-op Work*

*Framework for Moral and Political Decisions*

?  *Second Essay*

**DUE: The Good Life: Individual Prep Questions**

Explain *Defining Morality: Individual Prep Questions*; assign statements for question 2.

**Assignment for next session**

**LOOK AT**  *Second Essay*

 1.7 *Framework for Moral and Political Decisions*.

*Assignment continued on next page...*

**NOTE** *Introductory Questions: Survey Results* statements 4, 5, 6.

- READ** 📖3.1 Vladen Bahknov: *Beware of the Ahs!*, Greg Potter: “Art meter tunes in ecstasy”;  
📖3.2 Carl Wellman, *The Good*;  
Rachels, section 8.2;  
📖3.6 *The Good: Summary*;  
📖3.3 Nike advertisement;  
📖3.4 Anne McIlroy: “That’s Disgusting”;  
📖3.5 David Beers: “Auction off the Grizzlies!”;  
📖3.7 Ronald Inglehart: “A Plateau of Happiness”;  
📖3.8 Shankar Vedantam: “When Play Becomes Work”

**DUE NEXT SESSION: Defining Morality: Individual Prep Questions**

**1. To the left of each of the lettered Statements on the next page, indicate if it is a:**

- Model** (M) example of a moral judgment; or  
**Contrary** (C) example to a moral judgment; or  
**Borderline** (B) example of a moral judgment.

You are assessing **only** whether the statement **expresses a moral judgment**; you are **not** assessing whether it expresses a **correct** moral judgment.

**Try using the following procedures:**

- a.** First look for clear **contrary** cases: it is often easier to figure out what something is by first figuring out what it is **not**. It is commonly agreed that moral judgments must have the following two characteristics:
- i.** Moral judgments are **not neutral**, i.e., they are either **pro or con** (for or against) what is being judged. So, if any of the following statements **fails** to express a pro or con attitude towards what is being judged, then that statement does **not** express a moral judgment.
  - ii.** Moral judgments are **about persons or their actions**. So, if any of the following statements is not about persons or their actions, then that statement does **not** express a moral judgment.
- b.** Second, test the remaining statements (those not eliminated in **step a**) in the following ways:
- i.** If you think statement X (e.g., "Mother Theresa is saintly.") **expresses a pro attitude towards the morality** of what is being judged, see if it makes sense to add to X: '...but it [the subject matter of the judgment] is immoral.' For example:  

Mother Theresa is saintly; but she is immoral.

If it **does not** make sense to say that—as it **does not** in this example—then you are probably correct that X expresses a pro attitude towards the morality of what is being judged and is a **model** example of a moral judgment.
  - ii.** If you think statement Y (e.g., "You're a cheat.") **expresses a con attitude towards the morality** of what is being judged, see if it makes sense to add to Y: '...but it [the subject matter of the judgment] is morally alright.' For example:  

You're a cheat; but you're morally alright.

If it **does not** make sense to say that—as it **does not** in this example—then you are probably correct that Y expresses a con attitude towards the morality of what is being judged and is a **model** example of a moral judgment.

*Assignment continued on next page...*

2. For your assigned statement *i*, *j*, or *k*, explain briefly (in no more than about 250 words) how you classified it: what characteristic(s) of the statement makes it a model, contrary, or borderline case?

iii. If a statement ("She hit him.") makes sense with **both** of the above additions then it probably does **not** express a moral judgment: it is a **contrary** example to a moral judgment. For example, both these sentences make sense:

She hit him, and that was immoral.  
She hit him, and that was morally alright.

iv. If you **cannot tell** whether a statement expresses a moral judgment, then the statement is a **borderline** example.

### Statements

- a. The law requires motorcyclists to wear helmets.
- b. She is very intelligent.
- c. It really can't be much fun for a person to have sex with a sheep.
- d. During the experiment, the cats writhed in pain.
- e. He beat the animal cruelly.
- f. Please don't slurp your soup.
- g. Good parents use infant car seats for their young children.
- h. She is a liar.
- i. She posed lasciviously.
- j. He takes obscene photographs.
- k. He raped her.

Hand in **BOTH** question 1 and question 2.

### 3. Wednesday/Friday, September 23/25

What is philosophy and how do you do it?

Finish 📖2.2 *Plato: The Cave*, 📖1.4 *Methods of Inquiry*, 📖1.7 *Framework for Moral and Political Decisions*.

What makes life worth living, i.e., what gives value to our lives?

📖3.6 *The Good: Summary*

Are judgments about value and ethics objective—i.e., are they true or false—or are they relative to society or to individuals?

DUE: *Defining Morality: Individual Prep Questions*

*Assignment on next page...*

## Assignment for next session

**NOTE** *Introductory Questions: Survey Results* statements 1, 2, 3, 12, 13.

**READ** Rachels: *Preface, Chapter 1*.

**READ** 📖4.1 Thomas D. Davis: “The Land of Certus.”

### **DUE NEXT SESSION: Objectivity of Morality: Individual Prep Questions**

In no more than about 100 words, answer Question 1 or 2, as assigned. The issue is the **methods** used, not what those methods happen to pick out in the story, *e.g.*, Georges torture as good.

1. In “The Land of Certus”, the Rechstens look for natural properties—red and green lights—to tell them whether something is good or bad, right or wrong. Explain whether this is a good method for determining whether something is good or bad, right or wrong? Would you want to determine your morality by this method?

(Obviously, we have no such lights; and the author might have used other natural properties, *e.g.*, good and right might have been white or male, bad and wrong black or female. The question is, could such a method work well if the correct natural properties were used?)

2. The Linksens follow the commands of their Creator in order to determine what is right and wrong, good and bad. Explain whether this is a good method for determining whether something is good or bad, right or wrong? Would you want to determine your morality by this method?

(Again, the particular commands of the Linksens' Creator, *e.g.*, prescribing sexual equality and vegetarianism, are not the issue, but whether any such method could work well.)

**READ** 4.3 Julian Baggini: “This is what the clash of civilisations is really about”

Rachels, Chapters 4, 3, 2;

Work your way through the correlative sections of 📖4.2 *Objectivity of Morality: Summary*. (The material will be covered in this order beginning at session 5.)

### **DUE SESSION 5: Issue preferences for your 📖*Second Essay*.**

Turn in a list of your top four preferences for issues to write about in your *Second Essay*.

## **4. Wednesday/Friday, September 30/October 2**

**What makes life worth living, i.e., what gives value to our lives?**

Finish 📖3.6 *The Good: Summary*

**Are judgments about value and ethics objective or are they relative to society or to individuals?**

Finish *Defining Morality*.

**DUE: Objectivity of Morality: *Individual Prep Questions*.**

📖*First Essay: Objectivity of Morality*

*Assignment on next page...*

**Assignment for next session**

**NOTE Introductory Questions: Survey Results statements 7-8, 9-11, 14, 15 & 18.**

**DUE NEXT SESSION: Normative Ethics: Individual Prep Questions**

For each of the two following cases, decide if you believe that the action taken is morally justified or not.

Explain and justify your judgment in no more than about 100 words for each case. Write out your initial judgments and briefly justify them. Let them sit for awhile, then look at it all again: any further reflections?

*Criteria for Evaluating Ethics* may be useful.

1. The local hospital puts out an emergency call on the radio for blood donors to replenish its nearly exhausted reserves, announcing that lives will be lost without immediate donations. Richard hears the announcement, is in excellent health, and has no conscientious objections to giving blood. *But he does not go to give blood.*
2. Adrienne writes copy for an advertising agency that has the Nestles' account to promote the use of infant formula in the Caribbean. In the past, Nestles' has hired women to dress as nurses and visit new mothers, explaining to them that their babies will be healthier if they are raised on formula. It has also advertised formula as the modern way to raise babies. (See 📖5.2 George Monbiot: "Don't listen to what the rich world's leaders say...")

Adrienne thinks the promotion is immoral since many families use the formula as a complete replacement for breast-feeding yet cannot afford the amount needed by their babies. Consequently, the families over-dilute the formula, and their babies' health suffers dramatically.

Adrienne is assigned to the Nestles' account. *She does not refuse the assignment*, reasoning that she would be fired if she did, and the agency would simply hire someone else to write the ad copy.

**DUE NEXT SESSION: Issue preferences for your 📖Second Essay**

Turn in a list of your top four preferences for issues to write about in your *Second Essay*.

**DUE SESSION 6: Draft of steps 1, 3, 4 for 📖First Essay (4 pts)****READ FOR SESSION 6:****NOTE SUPP RDGS SUCH AS SMART, WASSERSTROM**

Rachels, chapter 5;

📖5.1 *Ethics: Summary*

**READ FOR SESSION 7:**

📖5.3 Olsen, "Distributive Justice";

Rachels, chapter 7-10;

📖5.4 "People value equity over efficiency";

📖5.7 Douglas Todd: "Who's making the decisions on privacy vs. security?";

📖5.8 Donna Nebenzahl: "Too much choice can make us miserable".

**READ FOR SESSION 8:**

📖6.1 Beauchamp, excerpt from *Philosophical Ethics*;

📖6.2 Solomon, excerpt from *Ethics: A Brief Introduction*;

Solomon's explanation of Virtue Ethics is much better than Rachels';

📖6.3 Alasdair MacIntyre: excerpt from *After Virtue*;

Rachels, chapter 12.3-12.6;

📖6.4 Erin Anderssen: “Doing good deeds can improve health, make you happier”.

***Assignment continued on next page...***

**READ FOR SESSION 9:**

Rachels, chapter 11;

📖7.1 Virginia Held: “Feminism and Moral Theory”;

📖7.2 Daphne Bramham: “The astounding lack of women in government”;

📖7.3 Gina Teel: “Businesses far better with women on boards”

📖7.4 Jennifer Newmay & Darryl Grigg: “Assertive women face sexual harassment”;

Rachels, chapter 13;

📖7.5 Donna Nebenzahl: “A new approach to leadership”

📖7.6 John Kekes: “Pluralism and Conflict in Morality”.

**5. Wednesday/Friday, October 7/9**

**Are judgments about value and ethics objective or are they relative to society or to individuals?**

📖4.2 *Objectivity of Morality: Summary*

📖4.4 *Criteria for Evaluating Ethics* (Cf. Rachels section 11.3 & Chapter 14.)

**How should we treat others, i.e., what morality, if any, should govern our actions towards each other?**

**DUE: Normative Ethics: Individual Prep Questions**

**DUE: Issue preferences for your 📖Second Essay**

**Assignment for next session**

**DUE NEXT SESSION: Draft of steps 1, 3, 4 for 📖First Essay (4 pts)**

**READ:** see reading assignments above under session 4.

**PREPARE FOR NEXT SESSION (not to hand in): Justice: Individual Prep Questions**

You sit on a hospital committee empowered to select those who can use the hospital's kidney dialysis machine. A vacancy for use of the machine occurs every few months, and there is now a vacancy. Each person applying to use the machine is asked to submit a short statement about why he or she should be selected. The statements are written by the person or by his or her doctor. All factual information in the statements is carefully checked before the statements reach the committee.

**List the following persons in the order you rank them for priority to use the machine.**

Beside each person's name, explain your ranking of that person in no more than one brief paragraph.

*Jojo:* I cannot say that I like Jojo. She has no family or friends. Her mother was a hooker and her father taught Jojo to hook and steal in order to pay for his booze. She works local clubs as a live sex act and does a variety of drugs (although her drug taking has not caused or worsened her kidney ailment, which is genetic). However, she has never been convicted of any crime. I think she has as much right to live as anyone else and should be given equal consideration for use of your kidney dialysis machine.

*Mary:* In most cases, after detection of a kidney ailment a person can survive for several months without dialysis. But, in Mary's case, she will die within a month if she doesn't get dialysis.

***Assignment continued on next page...***

*Robert:* It is tragic that choices have to be made about who uses your hospital's kidney dialysis machine. Since I am a very rich man, I am in a position to reduce this tragedy in the future. If your committee sees fit to choose me to receive kidney dialysis now, I shall over the next ten years endow your hospital with sufficient funds to buy six more machines.


*Jim:* Jim is an admired man in his community, a brilliant engineer, a tireless community worker, and a loving husband and father. It would be a travesty to cut this man down in the midst of a life that serves as a model of achievement to all who know him.

*Carol:* Five years ago, my husband bought a kidney dialysis machine and loaned it to your hospital in perpetuity with an endowment for its maintenance. The only condition attached to the loan was that should he or I ever need to use the machine, we would have first priority. Well, now I need to use it. My lawyers tell me that the hospital might successfully contest the condition attached to the loan. But regardless of the legal technicalities, my husband's wish should be respected that I receive first priority to use *his* machine.

*Bill:* Bill is quadriplegic. Despite his enormous handicap, he has completed high school and enrolled in college. Surely the enormous efforts he has made should not now be denied.

*Marie:* I'm not sure what to say. I have a good husband and two nice kids. My husband is a carpenter and I work at Safeway during the day when the kids are in school. We like to go camping in our camper. We have a good life. Now my doctor says I have a kidney problem and need to use your machine.

## **6. Wednesday/Friday, October 14/16**

**DUE: Draft of steps 1, 3, 4 for  *First Essay***

Work on  *First Essay*


**How should we treat others, i.e., what morality, if any, should govern our actions towards each other?**

 5.1 *Ethics: Summary*  
*Justice: Individual Prep Questions.*


**Assignment for next session**

**DUE SESSION 8:  *First Essay.***

**READ: see reading assignments above under session 4.**


**SESSION 8:** Do the reading on your  *Second Essay* issue: clarify the problem and decide what question your essay should answer.

## **7. Wednesday/Friday, October 21/23**

Work on  *First Essay: Conclusion* in class.

**How should we treat others, i.e., what morality should govern our actions towards each other?**

 5.1 *Ethics: Summary* continued.

 *Second Essay* issues assigned.



## Readings and Assignments: Weeks Seven-Nine

📄 indicates a handout in class. 📖 indicates material from *Philosophy 110 Course Pack*.

### Contents

**How should we treat others, i.e., what morality should govern our actions towards each other?**

7. Wednesday/Friday, October 21/23 :
8. Wednesday/Friday, October 28/30 : **DUE: *First Essay*.**
9. Wednesday/Friday, November 4/6 : **DUE: Draft of *Second Essay* steps 1, 3, 4**
10. Wednesday/Friday, November 1/13

### **7. Wednesday/Friday, October 21/23**

Work on 📄*First Essay: Group Conclusion* in class.

📖5.1 *Ethics: Summary* continued.

📄***Second Essay* issues assignment.**

#### **Abbotsford**

**Should I be responsible for the results of my own risky behaviour?**

Tajinder Grewal, Joseph Leivdal, Brianne Lylick, Garima Trivedi, Trevor Weins

**Should prostitution be legal?**

Dillon Hildebrand, Destinee Kreil, Taylor Stone, Jeanette Van Ejit, Shum Yousouf

**Should use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports be prohibited?**

Krystal Gross, Mohamed Jabbe, Andrew Osl, Erin Reid, Kyle VanderMooren,

**Should marijuana be legalised?**

Meagan Ambrose, Cameron Davenport, Chris Holmberg, Madalen Nicholls, Katie Schilt, Natalie Wall

**Kyle Bowness, Michael Bridden, Cassandra Bustin, Sunny Grewal, Devin Klassen, Kevin York choose ONE from the remaining issues.**

#### **Chilliwack**

**How much tuition should I pay for post-secondary education?**

Justine DeBad, Cody Hall, John Piers, Sean Sliman, Shea Wind

**What should I do about climate change?**

Brody Bergen, Desmond Devnich, Robert Koyich, Caepher Pink, Quill Point

**Should immunisation for contagious diseases be legally required?**

Christine Bell, Stephanie Day, Coletta Holmes, Chelsea Linton, Brittny Turner

**Should prostitution be legal?**

Janessa Hystek, Kristena Owen, Candace VandenBrink, Carissa Wall, Richard Wyman

**Should use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports be prohibited?**

Joshua Bloch, Charlotte Crabtree, Petra Kroboth, Bryce Orr, Zack Soderstrom

*Assignment on next page...*

**Assignment**

**DUE NEXT SESSION: 📖 *First Essay Individual Position Paper and Group Conclusion.***

**READ FOR SESSION 8:**

- 📖 6.1 Beauchamp, excerpt from *Philosophical Ethics*;
- 📖 6.2 Solomon, excerpt from *Ethics: A Brief Introduction*;  
Solomon's explanation of Virtue Ethics is much better than Rachels';
- 📖 6.3 Alasdair MacIntyre: excerpt from *After Virtue*;  
Rachels, chapter 12.3-12.6;
- 📖 6.4 Erin Anderssen: "Doing good deeds can improve health, make you happier".

**SESSION 8:** Do the reading on your 📖 *Second Essay* issue: clarify the problem and decide what question your essay should answer.

**READ FOR SESSION 9:**

- Rachels, chapter 11;
- 📖 7.1 Virginia Held: "Feminism and Moral Theory";
- 📖 7.2 Daphne Bramham: "The astounding lack of women in government";
- 📖 7.3 Gina Teel: "Businesses far better with women on boards"
- 📖 7.4 Jennifer Newmay & Darryl Grigg: "Assertive women face sexual harassment";  
Rachels, chapter 13;
- 📖 7.5 Donna Nebenzahl: "A new approach to leadership"
- 📖 7.6 John Kekes: "Pluralism and Conflict in Morality".

**DUE SESSION 9: Rough drafts of 📖 *Second Essay* steps 1, 3, 4 from 📖 1.7 *Framework for Moral and Political Decisions.***

**8. Wednesday/Friday, October 28/30**

**DUE: 📖 *First Essay: Individual Position Paper and Group Conclusion.***

**How should we treat others, i.e., what morality, if any, should govern our actions towards each other?**

- 📖 5.1 *Ethics: Summary* continued.
- 📖 *Second Essay*: Questions? Meet to clarify the problem: what question should your essay answer?

**Assignment**

**DUE NEXT SESSION: Rough drafts of 📖 *Second Essay* steps 1, 3, 4 from 📖 1.7 *Framework for Moral and Political Decisions.***

**READ FOR SESSION 9:**

- Rachels, chapter 11;
- 📖 7.1 Virginia Held: "Feminism and Moral Theory";
- 📖 7.2 Daphne Bramham: "The astounding lack of women in government";
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Rachels, chapter 13;
- 📖 7.5 Donna Nebenzahl: "A new approach to leadership"
- 📖 7.6 John Kekes: "Pluralism and Conflict in Morality".

## **9. Wednesday/Friday, November 4/6**

Finish 📖5.1 *Ethics: Summary*.

**DUE: Rough drafts of 📖Second Essay steps 1, 3, 4 from 📖1.7 Framework for Moral and Political Decisions.**

Meet with others assigned the same issue to review steps 1, 3, and 4.

Decide whether to work together or individually on final draft of 📖Second Essay.

### **Assignment**

Work on 📖Second Essay **DUE SESSION 11.**

**READ** 📖8.1 *Half Way*.

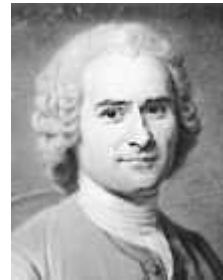
**NOTE** *Introductory Questions: Survey Results* statements 4, 5, 6.

**READ** 📖8.2 Excerpt from Plato, *Republic*, Book II;  
Rachels, Chapter 6.1, 6.2.

**READ** [Rousseau](#), *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, "Preface" through "Part One."

Also available online at <http://www.constitution.org/jjr/ineq.htm>.

<http://www.rousseauassociation.org/aboutRousseau/default.htm> has links to Rousseau's works, samples of his music, many pictures of his life, environs, and contemporaries.



**DUE SESSION 11: Double-Entry Journal for Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, "Preface" through "Part One" (8 pts)**

**MAKE SURE YOU ARE READING** *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, p. 25!

Starting at page 33, keep a **Double-Entry Journal** (see below) of no more than about **750 words** on the two questions below. that provides a brief **summary** of how the reading answers the two questions below, and that records your active **reflection** on the reading. **There should be as much reflection as summary.**

### **Questions to answer**

In the excerpt from Plato's *Republic*, Book II, Glaucon and Adeimantus ask Socrates some difficult questions about living justly. For the purposes of the following questions, assume that "living justly" means "living morally".

Glaucon says (page 1) that most people practice justice unwillingly, and he tells the story of Gyges to illustrate how we would act if we could get away with it. Glaucon appears to imply that we are not **by nature** just. (This means that human nature is such that we do not naturally treat each other justly.)

Your journal should answer at least the following questions that respond to Glaucon's and Adeimantus's challenge (which you should bear in mind as you read Rousseau).

**NOTE:** This is **not** an anthropology research project, nor is it relevant at this point whether there ever was a time when people lived without laws.

*Assignment continued on next page...*

**1. What characteristics does Rousseau give for human nature?**

In your **reflections** on what Rousseau says, consider what **you** believe about whether **you** and about whether humans are **by nature** moral, immoral, or amoral; equal; egoistic, etc. ("By nature" means according to our innate constitution prior to being shaped by society. "Amoral" means acting without moral concepts, or at least without believing that they apply to one's self.)

**2. According to Rousseau, why is it that neither human belligerence, egoism, sexuality, nor family relations provoke general conflict in the original state of nature (described in Part I of the *Discourse*)?**

In your **reflections**, consider what human life would be like for people **before** there were **enforced** laws **given the way you** characterize human nature: how do you think humans would have to live in the state of nature given your description of human nature? Prepare your journal on **facing pages** (or use a table with two columns if you are using a word processor with that ability).

On the **left** page of your Journal, create a **summary** of the reading's answers to the **Questions to answer** below.

**Note page numbers.**

**Write in complete sentences.** In most cases, you should use your own words, but you may quote the text where you find it particularly striking.

On the **right** page of your Journal (facing the summary), **reflect** on these numbered points. You need not reflect on each point. Your reflections should respond to the following questions (although each reflection need not answer each of these questions):

page #	Summary	Reflection
2		
3		

- How does the point relate to your experience and expectations, to other readings?
- What further questions does the point provoke?
- Do you agree or disagree with the point? Why?
- Has the point changed or confirmed your previous ideas? Does it have any practical implications?

**This is a journal**, so do not worry nearly as much about it looking pretty as about its content.

**LOOK AT** 📖 8.3 *Why Be Moral?*

📖 8.4 *Prisoners' Dilemma*,

📖 9.1 *Social Contract Framework: Hobbes & Rousseau*.

**November 11: Remembrance Day**

**10. Wednesday/Friday, November None/13**

**Why do we have politics: what fundamental problems must it solve?**

Rest of the course

Rousseau Biography

📖 8.3 *Why be moral?*

📖 8.4 *Prisoners' Dilemma*

📖 9.1 *Social Contract Framework: Hobbes & Rousseau*

📖 [Hobbes](#) reading to those who want it.

**Meet with others assigned the same issue to work on 📖 *Second Essay*.**



## Readings and Assignments: The Rest

### Contents

**Why do we have politics, e.g., what essential functions, if any, do political institutions such as the state perform?**

10. Wednesday/Friday, November None/13
11. Wednesday/Friday, November 25/20
12. Wednesday/Friday, December 2/27:
13. Wednesday/Friday, December 4: **DUE: *Second Essay*.**

### ***Final Examination***

**First**, we will look at Plato's story of Gyges's ring and ask:

What is human nature? Is it **moral, immoral, amoral**?

What would life be like if we were to live **naturally**, i.e., without a government and laws restricting our behaviour?

Why should **we** be moral? Why should **I** be moral?

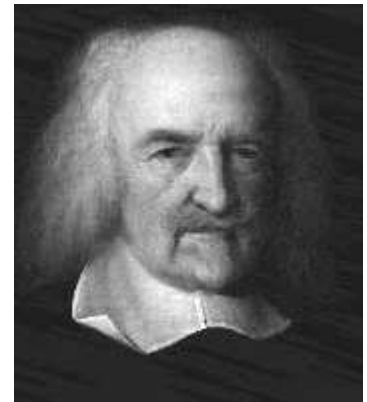
**Second**, we will look at Hobbes's and Rousseau's answers to these questions:

As a background to your reading Rousseau, I will explain the basics of Hobbes's theory in *Leviathan*.

Then we will read Rousseau's *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality* for its answer to these questions, which you can compare with yours and Plato's notions of human nature and of life in the state of nature.

Then we will look briefly at **anarchism** for some answers to the above questions that certainly oppose Hobbes and possibly oppose Rousseau.

**Finally**, we will look at Rousseau's *Social Contract* as a paradigm of modern political thinking and ponder its fate.



### **10. Wednesday/Friday, November None/13**

**Why do we have politics: what fundamental problems must it solve?**

Rest of the course

Rousseau Biography

📖 8.3 *Why be moral?*

📖 8.4 *Prisoners' Dilemma*

📖 9.1 *Social Contract Framework: Hobbes & Rousseau*

📖 [Hobbes](#) reading to those who want it.

Meet with others assigned the same issue to work on 📖 *Second Essay*.

***Assignment on next page...***

## Assignment

### DUE SESSION 12: 📖 *Second Essay*

### DUE NEXT SESSION: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Part I: Double Entry Journal.* See Assignment under Session 9.

READ *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality, Part II*;

📖9.2 Jared Diamond: “The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race”;

📖9.4 “London squatter becomes millionaire landowner”.

LOOK AT 📖9.3 *Rousseau: Discourse on the Origin of Inequality Summary*

📖9.5 *Anarchism: Summary.*

### DUE SESSION 12: Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Individual Prep Questions (8 pts)

Begin reading Rousseau's *Social Contract*. Listed below is a suggested order for reading. It would be nice if you read it all, but if you are unable to do so, please follow these guidelines.

It is also available online at <http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>.

Book I, all

Book II, chapters 6-7, 1-5, 11-12

Book IV, chapters 1-3

Book III, chapters 1, 9-18

**Read at least this much.**

Book IV, chapters 6-9

Book II, chapters 8-10

**Do try to read this much.**

Book III, chapters 2-8

Book IV, chapters 4-5

You may also find helpful 📖9.1 *Social Contract Framework: Hobbes & Rousseau* and 📖9.6 *Rousseau's Social Contract: Summary.*

**In no more than about 750 words, answer the following questions.**

**Page numbers** are given both to *The Basic Political Writings* and in square brackets [ ] to *The Essential Rousseau*, an older edition some of you may have.

**Do not just quote passages from Rousseau or from CoursePack sources:** while it is often necessary to use Rousseau's vocabulary, **write your own sentences.**

1. On page 147 [16] (Book I, chapter VI, paragraph 1), Rousseau says that the way of life in the state of nature threatens the existence **of the human race**. Explain how the Prisoners' Dilemma faced by humanity in the state of nature poses this threat.

**Hint:** Rousseau says that the way of life in the state of nature threatens the existence **of the human race**: the problem is not merely **individuals** surviving but the survival of **humanity**. **What about us** must survive in order for us to survive **as humans**, *i.e.*, how does Rousseau characterise **human nature**?

2. Using an example from contemporary Canada, explain the difference between a **social** contract and a **political** contract and Rousseau's reasons for saying that the **social** contract must precede the **political** contract in order for the latter to be legitimate (147 [16] (Book I, chapter VI, paragraph 1), 201 [82-83] (Book III, chapter XVII).
3. In the social contract that Rousseau describes (pp. 147-9 [16-19] (Book I, chapter VI)), who are the parties to the contract, *i.e.*, who makes the agreement with whom?

*Assignment continued on next page...*

4. Using one specific example, explain the difference between the General Will and the will of all (pp. 155 [27 ](Book II, chapter III), 203-04 [86] (Book IV, chapter I).
5. Using an example of a twentieth or twenty-first century political leader, explain the role of the Lawgiver (pp. 162-5 [35-38] (Book II, chapter VII)).

It might help to consider what communitarians (including Virtue Ethics) would say about the social contract approach to explaining why we should be moral.

## **11. Wednesday/Friday, November 18/20**

**Why do we have politics: does modern politics solve fundamental problems?**

**DUE: *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality; Part I Double Entry Journal***

📖8.3 *Why be moral?*

📖8.4 *Prisoners' Dilemma*

📖9.1 *Social Contract Framework: Hobbes & Rousseau*

📖9.3 *Rousseau: Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

📖[Locke](http://www.lonang.com/exlibris/locke/loc-205.htm) reading ([www.lonang.com/exlibris/locke/loc-205.htm](http://www.lonang.com/exlibris/locke/loc-205.htm)) to those who want it.

📖9.5 *Anarchism: Summary.*

📖*Anarchism* reading to those who want it.



### **Assignment**

**DUE NEXT SESSION: *Rousseau's Social Contract IPOs* (see Assignment under session 10 above.)**

## **12. Wednesday/Friday, November 25/27**

**Why do we have politics: does modern politics solve fundamental problems?**

**DUE: *Rousseau's Social Contract IPOs***

📖9.6 *Rousseau's Social Contract: Summary*

### **Assignment**

**DUE NEXT SESSION: 📖*Second Essay.***

**READ** 9.7 Chris Floyd: "Virtuous Species: the Biological Origins of Human Morality..."; Rachels chapter 6.3, 6.4, 6.5;

📖10.1 Virginia Held, "Non-contractual Society: A Feminist View";

📖10.2 *End of the Modern Tradition?: Summary.*

**SEE** 📖1.6 *Previous Questions for Final Examination. Questions about Final Examination?*

**13. Wednesday/Friday, December 2/4**

**Why do we have politics: does modern politics solve fundamental problems?**

📖 10.2 *End of the Modern Tradition?: Summary*

Questions about *Final Examination*?

**Assignment**

**PREPARE FOR** *Final Examination*. See 📖 1.6 *Previous Questions for Final Examination*.

09:00-11:00, December 10, Chilliwack D132

09:00-11:00, December 12, Abbotsford D217

09:00-11:00, December 13, Abbotsford A235

You may write the exam at any of these times, regardless of the section in which you are enrolled.