

Course Schedule (updated Oct 12)

The course schedule and reading list may be updated as we progress.

WK	DATE	TOPIC	Note
1	Sep 6	Course Overview	
	Sep 8	Is it wrong to eat meat?	
2	Sep 13	Is it wrong to eat meat?	
	Sep 15	Is it wrong to eat meat?	
3	Sep 20	Is there a right to sex?	
	Sep 22	Is there a right to sex?	
4	Sep 27	Is there a right to sex?	
	Sep 29	~ CLASS CANCELLED~	Quiz
5	Oct 4	What rights should minorities have?	
	Oct 6	What rights should minorities have?	
6	Oct 11	What rights should minorities have?	
	Oct 13	What rights should minorities have?	
7	Oct 18	Why are morally blind sometimes?	
	Oct 20	Why are morally blind sometimes?	
8	Oct 25	Why are morally blind sometimes?	
	Oct 27	~NO LECTURE~	Quiz
9	Nov 1	What are the challenges to truth and reconciliation?	
	Nov 3	What are the challenges to truth and reconciliation?	
		~READING WEEK~	
10	Nov 15	What are the challenges to truth and reconciliation?	
	Nov 17	What are the challenges to truth and reconciliation?	
11	Nov 22	Group Presentations #1&2	
	Nov 24	Group Presentations #3&4	
12	Nov 29	Group Presentations #5&6	
	Dec 1	Group Presentations #7&8	

Week 1

Sep 6 Course Overview

Required Readings: Syllabus

Recommended Readings

- James Rachels, 'Can ethics provide answers?'
- Hugh La Follette, 'Reading philosophy' and 'Writing a philosophy paper', from his *Ethics in Practice*, 2nd ed. (Oxford, Blackwell, 2002).

Topic #1: Is it wrong to eat meat?

Are we "speciesist" if we eat meat? How is a speciesist similar to a racist or a sexist? What is "moral standing"? Do animals have it, and have it to the same extent as humans do?

Week 1/Sep 8

Required readings:

- Peter Singer, "All animals are equal," reprinted in *Ethics in Practice*, 2nd ed., ed. Hugh La Follette (Blackwell, 2002).

Recommended readings:

- Tom Regan, 'The case for animal rights' reprinted in *Ethics in Practice*, 2nd ed., ed. Hugh La Follette (Blackwell, 2002).

Movie recommendation:

- *BoJack Horseman*, Season 2, episode 5, 'Chickens' (dir. Mike Roberts, 2015) – available on Netflix

Week 2/ Sep 13 & 15

Required readings:

- Peter Singer, "All animals are equal," reprinted in *Ethics in Practice*, 2nd ed., ed. Hugh La Follette (Blackwell, 2002).
- R. G. Frey, "Moral standing, the value of lives, and speciecism", reprinted in *Ethics in Practice*, 2nd ed., ed. Hugh La Follette (Blackwell, 2002).

Recommended readings:

- Cora Diamond, "Eating meat and eating people", *Philosophy* (1978)
- Bonnie Steinbock, 'Speciecism and the idea of equality', *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (1978).
- Sue Donaldson & Will Kymlicka, "Universal Basic Rights for Animals" in *Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights* (OUP, 2011)

Topic #2: Is there a right to sex?

While we widely acknowledge that no one is obligated to desire anyone else, that no one has a right to be desired, we must also recognize that who is desired and who isn't is often answered by toxic social norms such as racism, classism, and heteronormativity. What should we do about our sexual desires?

Week 3/Sep 20 & 22

Required readings:

- Amia Srinivasan, “Does anyone have the right to sex?” in *London Review of Books* (Mar 2018) available on <https://www.lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v40/n06/amia-srinivasan/does-anyone-have-the-right-to-sex>
- Amia Srinivasan, “Coda: The Politics of Desire” from her *The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century* (FSG 2021)

Recommended readings:

- Ellen Willis, “Lust horizons: is the women’s movement pro-sex?” in *No More Nice Girls: Countercultural Essays* (University of Minnesota Press, 2012)
- Catherine A. MacKinnon, “Sexuality, Pornography, and Method: ‘Pleasure under Patriarchy’” *Ethics* (1989)
- Sally Haslanger, “Feminism and the Question of Theory” in the *Raven* (Fall 2021) available on <https://ravenmagazine.org/magazine/feminist-critical-consciousness-and-the-question-of-theory/>

Week 4/Sep 27 (no class on Sep 29, online quiz)

Required readings:

- Raja Halwani, “Racial Sexual Desires” in *The Philosophy of Sex* 7th edition (2017)

Recommended readings:

- Tom O’Shea, “Sexual desire and structural injustice”, *Journal of Social Philosophy* (2020)
- Megan Mitchell & Mark Wells, “Race, Romantic Attraction, and Dating”, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2018)

Movie Recommendation:

- *The Future of*, episode 2, ‘Dating’ (2022) -available on Netflix

Topic #3: What rights should minorities have?

So we’ve heard that Canada is a multicultural nation-state, and that diversity is our strength. But what is this ideal of multiculturalism? What policy implications does it have? Why should we care about cultures? Is multiculturalism bad for women? Does it really protect minorities adequately?

Week 5/Oct 4 & 6

Required readings:

- Will Kymlicka, 'Justice and minority rights', in *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights* (OUP 1996)

Recommended readings:

- Charles Taylor, 'The Politics of Recognition' in *Multiculturalism: Examining the politics of recognition* ed. Amy Gutmann (Princeton University Press, 1994)
- Katherine Smits, 'Are minority cultures entitled to recognition and rights?', from her *Applying Political Theory*, pp. 18-41.

Movie recommendation:

- The Hutterites (dir. Colin Low, 1964), available at https://www.nfb.ca/film/the_hutterites/

Week 6/Oct 11 & 13

Required readings:

- Susan Moller Okin, "Feminism and multiculturalism: some tensions", *Ethics* 108 (1998).
- Glen Coulter, "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada," *Contemporary Political Theory* 6 (2007)

Recommended readings:

- Chandran Kukathas, "Are there any cultural rights?", *Political Theory* 20 (1992).

Topic #4: Why are we morally blind sometimes?

Slavery was once widely perceived to be morally acceptable. How do power and social norms prevent us from seeing the demands of morality? How should we organize our collective inquiry to counteract biases and minimize moral blind spots?

Week 7/Oct 18 & 20

Required Readings:

- Elizabeth Anderson, "The Social Epistemology of Morality: Learning from the Forgotten History of the Abolition of Slavery" in *The Epistemic Life of Groups* eds. Michael Brady and Miranda Fricker (OUP, 2016)
- Agnes Tam, "Why moral reasoning is insufficient for moral progress" *Journal of Political Philosophy* (2020)

Recommended Readings:

- Anthony Kwame Appiah, “Suppressing Atlantic Slavery” in *The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen* (WW Norton, 2010)
- Kai Spiekermann, “Four Types of Moral Wriggle Room: Uncovering Mechanisms of Racial Discrimination” in *The Epistemic Life of Groups* eds. Michael Brady and Miranda Fricker (OUP, 2016)
- Elizabeth Anderson, “Moral bias and corrective practices: A pragmatist perspective” *Proceedings and Addresses of the APA* 89 (2019)

Week 8/Oct 25&27

Required Readings:

- Agnes Tam, “Why moral reasoning is insufficient for moral progress” *Journal of Political Philosophy* (2020)

Recommended Readings:

- Allen Buchanan, “Political liberalism and social epistemology” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 32 (2004)
- Cristina Bicchieri and Hugo Mercier, “Norms and Beliefs: How Change Occurs” in *The Complexity of Social Norms* (Springer 2014)

Topic #5: What are the challenges to truth and reconciliation?

What is truth and what is reconciliation? Why does truth matter to reconciliation, for the societies and the individuals? Is truth even possible?

Week 9 Nov 1&3

Required Readings:

- TBC

Recommended Readings:

- Avishai Margalit, “A Moral Witness” from his *The Ethics of Memory* (Harvard 2004)
- “The challenge of reconciliation” in *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, pp.189-318, available on https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/trc/IR4-7-2015-eng.pdf
- John Burrows and James Tully, “Introduction” in *Resurgence and Reconciliation: Indigenous-Settler Relations and Earth Teachings*, eds. Michael Asch, John Burrows, and James Tully (UoT Press, 2018)

Week 10 Nov 10&15

Required readings:

- Michele Moody-Adams, “Justice and the narrative imagination” from her *Making Space for Justice: Social Movements, Collective Imagination, and Political Hope* (Columbia 2022)

Recommended Readings:

- Colleen Murphy, “Truth Commissions” from her *A Moral Theory of Political Reconciliation* (Cambridge, 2012)
- Onur Bakiner, “One truth among others? Truth commissions’ struggle for truth and memory” *Memory Studies* 8 (2015)

Group Presentations

Weeks 11 & 12 Really looking forward to them!