

PHIL 703S  
**Pro seminar in ethics**  
Fall 2025

Thursdays, 125 - 355  
White 201

Gopal Sreenivasan

**Schedule**

August 28	No reading.
September 4	Prichard, "Does moral philosophy rest on a mistake?," <i>Mind</i> (1912): 21-37.
Sept 11	Hart, "Are there any natural rights?," <i>Philosophical Review</i> (1955) 64: 75-91.
Sept 18	Thomson, "Right to privacy," <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> (1975) 4: 295-314.
Sept 25	Taurek, "Should the numbers count?," <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> (1977) 6: 293-316.
October 2	Kamm, "Supererogation and obligation," <i>Journal of Philosophy</i> (1985) 82: 118-38.
Oct 9	McDowell, "Virtue and Reason," <i>Monist</i> (1979) 62: 331-50.
Oct 16	<i>Extended fall break.</i>
Oct 23	Wolf, "Moral Saints," <i>Journal of Philosophy</i> (1980) 79: 419-39.
Oct 30	Williams, "The idea of equality," [1962] in his <i>Problems of the Self</i> (1973), ch. 14
November 6	Sen, "Equality of what?," [1979] in S. Darwall (ed.) <i>Equal Freedom</i>
Nov 13	Anderson, "What is the point of equality?," <i>Ethics</i> (1999) 109: 287-337.
Nov 20	Nussbaum, <i>Creating Capabilities</i> (Harvard, 2011), chh. 2-3.

## **Readings**

Readings will be made available in Canvas.

## **Assignments**

Everyone will be required to write a weekly 600 word essay on the assigned topic. Essays will be due at 9 am in the Canvas dropbox on Thursdays (i.e., class day). Topics will be posted in Canvas the week before. Everyone has **two** free passes on the short essays, i.e. you may elect not to submit an essay on two weeks of your choosing.

Everyone will make one presentation, in the last month of class.

Everyone is also required to write a 3000 word essay at the end of the term. Students should propose their own topics. 1 page topic proposals are due by e-mail on Friday, October 31. The essay itself is due Monday, December 8.

## **Grading**

From each student's 9 short essays (there will be no essay in week 1), I will count your highest 6 grades. These 6 grades will count for 60 percent of your final grade; your longer essay will count for 30 percent; your presentation will count for the remaining 10 percent.

## **Office hours**

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By appointment

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25 August, 2025