

# University of London BA Philosophy

## Course Schedule 2001-2

**Course:** Ethics

**Convenor:** Thomas Pink

**Intended audience:** 2nd and 3rd Year

Undergraduates

### **Aims of Course:**

The Ethics course contributes to the general aims of the London Philosophy course by giving students the resources to equip them to be able to investigate the nature of ethical thought and its place in human life.

### **Objectives:**

Students will study for this course by means of tutorials, independent study and intercollegiate lectures. Students completing the course will have:

- (a) developed a capacity for ethical argument.
- (b) acquired a knowledge of the main ethical theorists in the western philosophical tradition, and the relations between.
- (c) understood the nature of some central problems in moral philosophy
- (d) encountered and evaluated a number of attempts to solve the philosophical problems under discussion.
- (e) acquired an understanding of how problems in moral philosophy relate to everyday life.
- (f) acquired an ability to relate the questions discussed to the work of

philosophers studied on other papers.

(g) been encouraged to read with great care and reflected upon some difficult texts, as well as introductory and secondary material.

(h) answered questions in finals on both historical texts and areas of contemporary interest.

**No of Lectures: 25**

## **Term 1**

Lecturer Thomas Pink (5 weeks):

Topic : The Varieties of Moral Normativity

The aim of this set of lectures is to examine the various forms moral normativity takes and, in particular, the normativity of obligation and its relation to action.

Lecturer: Rai Gaita (5 weeks)

Topic: Reason, Emotion and Moral Understanding

The aim of this course is to examine the role of reason and emotion in moral understanding.

## **Term 2**

Lecturer: Peter Goldie (5 weeks)

Topic: Morality and Character

The course will examine the moral significance of character. Does moral appraisal and moral responsibility presuppose that moral agents possess a

determinate moral character?

Lecturer: Martin Stone (5 weeks)

Topic: Moral Principles and Casuistry

The course will examine the role of principles and rules in moral reasoning and their relation to particular moral problems and cases.

Lecturer: Peter Adamson (5 weeks)

Topic: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*.

The course will examine the ethical theory presented in the *Nicomachean Ethics*.

### **Assessment:**

Students will sit a degree examination in this subject at the end of their final year. Tutorial essays will set by and delivered to college tutors.