

PRACTICAL REASON

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PRELIMINARY READINGS (to be read prior before the first class)

Plato's Division of the Soul

- <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato-ethics-politics/>
- Section 2.1

Aristotle's Ethics

- <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/>
- Sections 1-5, especially 5

Treatise of Human Nature, Part 3, Section. 3: Of the Influencing Motives of the Will

David Hume

- <http://www.class.uidaho.edu/mickelsen/texts/Hume%20Treatise/hume%20treatise2.htm#PART%20III> (you have to scroll down to section 3)

Kant's Moral Philosophy

- <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-moral/>
- Sections 1-5, especially 3-5

PRIMARY READINGS (in the order we will read them)

1. **Bernard Williams** (The classic defense of Humeanism about practical reason, explaining/grounding reasons, reasoning, and motivation by desire)
 - "Internal and External Reasons"
 - "Internal Reasons and the Obscurity of Blame"
2. **John McDowell**, "Might There Be External Reasons?" (A critique of Williams)
3. **Bernard Williams**, "Reply to McDowell" in Mind, World, and Ethics
4. **Warren Quinn**, "Putting Rationality in its Place" (A critique of Humean accounts of the explanation of action by reference to desire and a defense of a value-based approach)
5. **Jonathan Dancy**, Chapter 1 of Moral Reasons (Rejection of Humean accounts of motivation and sketching a cognitivist conception of motivation according to which beliefs, not desires, motivate)
6. **T.M. Scanlon**, Chapter 1 of What We Owe To Each Other (A value-based approach, a non-Humean account of desire)
7. **Jonathan Dancy**, Practical Reality (A defense of a very robust value-based approach)
8. **Mark Schroeder**, Slaves of the Passions (A very recent and potentially very influential defense of Humeanism)

EVALUATION

Paper #1: 25%

Paper #2: 35%

Class Presentation: 20%

Class Participation: 20%