



# Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

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## Trinity Business School

### FUNDAMENTALS OF PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE 2019/20

<b>MODULE CODE:</b>	<b>BUU11540</b>
<b>MODULE NAME:</b>	<b>FUNDAMENTALS OF PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>
<b>ECTS:</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Lecturer:</b>	<b>Dr. Kenneth Silver</b>
<b>Phone:</b>	<b>+353-1-896-3494 (ext. 3654)</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>silverk@tcd.ie</b>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	<b>12-14:00 on Fridays, room 213 of TBS</b>

### MODULE DESCRIPTION

This module is an introduction to a broad range of topics within philosophy, ethics, and the social sciences with a focus on recognizing bad conduct and using personal, economic, and political means to do good things. In the Michaelmas semester, we focus entirely on how to recognize features of bad conduct especially in business contexts. This requires using tools from empirical psychology and the normative theories of ethics. In the Hillary semester, the focus shift towards the scope of our positive obligations to others and how best to use social institutions to satisfy them, which requires us to engage with economic and political theory.

### LEARNING AND TEACHING APPROACH

The approach taken involves students doing close readings of recent, innovative, and thought-provoking texts from a variety of subfields. This is coupled with detailed lectures for background context and distillation of the main ideas as well as tutorials for students

to become comfortable discussing these challenging ideas together. Papers and examinations offer students further opportunities to consider how these ideas interact and, ultimately, what they think about them.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

LO1: Become familiar with the foundational issues and methodology of the western philosophical canon and how they continue to be applicable today.

LO2: Learn the major theories of ethics and political theory and how to correctly apply them in contemporary business contexts.

LO3: Become familiar with current issues and methodology in social science, particularly in economics, sociology, and political theory.

LO4: Develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills on contemporary business-ethical debates including the extent of our personal, economic, and political obligations.

LO5: Develop an ability to discuss these challenging issues productively with peers.

## WORKLOAD

<b>Content</b>	<b>Indicative Number of Hours</b>
<i>Lecturing hours</i>	2 per week for 22 weeks
<i>Preparation for lectures</i>	1 per week for 22 weeks
<i>Individual assignments</i>	16
<i>Reading of assigned materials and active reflection on lecture and course content and linkage to personal experiences</i>	4 per week for 22 weeks
<i>Final exam preparation</i>	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>178</b>

## TEXTBOOKS AND REQUIRED RESOURCES

### Required core course textbook:

There is no textbook required.

### General Supplemental Readings

All readings will be provided through Blackboard.

### Student preparation for the module

Students should read assigned reading before each class and consider how it connects with readings done before.

## COURSE COMMUNICATION

**Please note that all course related email communication must be sent from your official TCD email address. Emails sent from other addresses will not be attended to.**

## ASSESSMENT

Course participation (10%)

Regular quizzes (10%)

Essay 1 (25%) due at the end of Michaelmas semester

Essay 2 (25%) due at the end of Hillary semester

Final Examination (30%)

## REASSESSMENT

Students who fail the Final Examination will have an opportunity to take a further exam for reassessment. Similarly, students who fail one of the essays will have the opportunity to submit a make-up essay on a new topic by an agreed upon date.

## MODULE SCHEDULE

Term – Michaelmas		
Session	Date & Venue	Lecture & readings
1	Week 3 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Intro to the module and methodology
2	Week 3 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Moral reasoning  Reading: May, J. & Kumar, V. Forthcoming. Moral reasoning and emotion. In K. Jones, M. Timmons, & A. Zimmerman (Eds.), <b><i>Routledge Handbook on Moral Epistemology</i></b> (pp. 139-156). Routledge.
3	Week 4 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Empathy  Reading: Kauppinen, A. 2014. Empathy, emotion regulation, and moral judgment. In H. Maibom (Ed.), <b><i>Empathy and Morality</i></b> . Oxford University Press.
4	Week 4 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Compassion

		Reading: Archer, A. 2018. The moral value of compassion. In Justin Caouette and Carolyn Price (Eds.), <i>The Moral Psychology of Compassion</i> .
5	Week 5 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Harm  Reading: Hanser, M. Forthcoming. Understanding harm and its moral significance. <i>Ethical Theory and Moral Practice</i> , 1-17.
6	Week 5 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Rights  Reading: Rainbolt, G. W. 2006. Rights theory. <i>Philosophy Compass</i> .
7	Week 6 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Bias  Reading: Johnson, G. M. Forthcoming. The psychology of bias: From data to theory. In <i>Introduction to Implicit Bias</i> . Routledge.
8	Week 6 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Hypocrisy  Reading: Fritz, K. G., & Miller, D. 2018. Hypocrisy and the standing to blame. <i>Pacific Philosophical Quarterly</i> , 99(1): 118-139.
9	Week 7 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Lying  Reading: Stokke, A. 2019. Lies, harm, and practical interests. <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i> , 98(2): 329-345.
10	Week 7 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Fraud  Reading: Rossouw, G. J. 2000. Defining and understanding fraud: A South African case study. <i>Business Ethics Quarterly</i> , 10: 885-895.
11	Week 8 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Coercion  Reading: Sachs, B. 2013. Why coercion is wrong when it's wrong. <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> , 91(1): 63-82.
12	Week 8 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Risking  Reading: Chapter 3 of Oberdiek, J. 2015. <i>Imposing Risk: A Normative Framework</i> .
No meeting	Week 9	Study/Review
No meeting	Week 9	Study/Review
13	Week 10 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Exploitation  Reading: Vrousalis, N. Forthcoming. Exploitation: A primer. <i>Philosophy Compass</i> .
14	Week 10 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Virtue ethics  Reading: Selections of Aristotle. ~350BCE. <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> .
15	Week 11 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Deontology  Reading: Selections of Kant, I. 1785. <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> .

16	Week 11 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Consequentialism  Reading: Selections of Mill, J. S. 1863. <b>Utilitarianism.</b>
17	Week 12 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Social contract theories  Reading: Selections of Scanlon, T. M. <b>What We Owe to Each Other.</b> Harvard University Press.
18	Week 12 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Care ethics  Reading: Collins, S. 2017. Care ethics: The four key claims. In D. Morrow (Ed.), <b>Moral Reasoning: A Text and Reader on Ethics and Contemporary Moral Issues</b> (pp. 192-204). Oxford University Press.
19	Week 13 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: Oppression  Reading: Selections of Manne, K. 2018. <b>Down Girl: The Logic of Mysogyny.</b>
20	Week 13 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Complicity  Reading: Kutz, C. 2000. <b>Complicity: Ethics and Law for a Collective Age.</b> Selections.
21	Week 14 Wed. 13:00-14:00	Lecture: The banality of evil  Reading: Selections of Arendt, H. 1963. <b>Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil.</b>
22	Week 14 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Wrap-up and discussion of paper topics
No meeting	Week 15	Revision
No meeting	Week 16	Assessment

Term - Hillary		
Session	Date & Venue	Lecture & readings
1	Week 22 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Plan for the term
2	Week 22 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Corrective justice  Reading: Lazar, S. R. M. 2008. Corrective justice and the possibility of rectification. <b>Ethical Theory and Moral Practice</b> , 11(4): 355-368.
3	Week 23 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Freedom  Reading: Pettit, P. 2015. Freedom: Psychological, ethical, and political. <b>Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy</b> , 18(4): 375-389.
4	Week 23 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Equality

		Reading: Fourie, C. 2012. What is social equality? An analysis of status equality as a strongly egalitarian ideal. <i>Res Publica</i> , 18(2): 107-126.
5	Week 24 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Fairness  Reading: Wong, P. Forthcoming. Democratizing algorithmic fairness. <i>Philosophy and Technology</i> , 1-20.
6	Week 24 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Consent  Reading: Sections 1-4 of Eyal, N. 2019. Informed consent. <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> . E. N. Zalta (Ed.).
7	Week 25 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Filial duty  Reading: Narveson, J. 1987. On honouring our parents. <i>Southern Journal of Philosophy</i> , 25(1): 65-78.
8	Week 25 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Fiduciary duty  Reading: Lydenberg, S. 2014. Reason, rationality, and fiduciary duty. <i>Journal of Business Ethics</i> , 119(3): 1-16.
9	Week 26 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Professional duty  Reading: Macdonald, C. 2000. Clinical standards and the structure of professional obligation. <i>Professional Ethics, a Multidisciplinary Journal</i> , 8(1): 7-17.
10	Week 26 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Legal duty  Reading: Edmundson, W. A. 2004. State of the art: The duty to obey the law. <i>Legal Theory</i> , 10: 215-259.
11	Week 27 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Collective duty  Reading: Nefsky, J. 2019. Collective harm and the inefficacy problem. <i>Philosophy Compass</i> , 14(4): e12587.
12	Week 27 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Charity  Reading: Singer, P. 1972. Famine, affluence, and morality. <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> , 1(3): 229-243.
No meeting	Week 28	Study/Review
No meeting	Week 28	Study/Review
13	Week 29 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Effective Altruism  Reading: Selections of MacAskill, W. 2015. <i>Doing Good Better: How Effect Altruism Can Help You Make a Difference</i> .
14	Week 29 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Consumer choices  Reading: Hussain, W. 2012. Is ethical consumerism an impermissible form of vigilantism? <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> , 40(2): 111-143.

15	Week 30 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: The Just Price  Reading: Koehn, D., & Wilbratte, B. 2012. A defense of a Thomistic concept of the just price. <i>Business Ethics Quarterly</i> , 22(3): 501-526.
16	Week 30 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: The Minimum Wage  Reading: Wilkinson, T. M. 2004. The ethics and economics of the minimum wage. <i>Economics and Philosophy</i> , 20(2): 351-374.
17	Week 31 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: The Limits of Markets  Reading: Selections of Satz, D. 2010. <i>Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale: The Moral Limits of Markets</i> .
18	Week 31 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Voting  Reading: Chapter 5 of Brennan, J. 2011. <i>The Ethics of Voting</i> . Princeton University Press.
19	Week 32 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Activism  Reading: Sparks, H. 1997. Dissident citizenship: Democratic theory, political courage, and activist women. <i>Hypatia</i> , 12(4): 74-110.
20	Week 32 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Civil disobedience  Reading: Lefkowitz, D. 2007. On a moral right to civil disobedience. <i>Ethics</i> , 117: 202-233.
21	Week 33 Wed. 12:00-13:00	Lecture: Taxation  Reading: Halliday, D. 2013. Justice and taxation. <i>Philosophy Compass</i> , 8(12): 1111-1122.
22	Week 33 Thurs. 11:00-12:00	Lecture: Wrap-up, discussion of paper and Final
	Week 34	Revision
	Week 35	Trinity Week
	Week 36	Assessment

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Dr. Silver graduated with a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Southern California in 2017, following at Bachelors of Arts from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Dr. Silver's research is on a broad range of cross-disciplinary topics including corporate personhood, the nature of causation, financial ethics, and the conceptual foundations of strategic management, and he has previously taught the module, "Are Corporations People?" His work has appeared in venues such as the *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Business Ethics Journal Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Mind*, *Philosophia*, and *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*.