

PHGA 7662  
MORAL INTENTIONALITY  
FALL 2010  
TUESDAYS, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

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OFFICE HOURS  
Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10:00 am – Noon  
And By Appointment

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*Introduction*

By moral intentionality, I mean the directedness of consciousness to moral phenomena, including our apprehension of what is morally salient in particular situations, our identification of moral goods, our moral appraisals of possible courses of action, our moral judgments regarding actions and agents, and our experience of obligation.

The approach taken in the course will be phenomenological. We shall investigate the structures of both our moral experience and things taken in their moral significance. In particular, we shall investigate the nature of both evaluative and volitional experience, and we shall examine what it is for an object, state of affairs, action, or agent to be experienced as morally good or bad. While the course will be primarily concerned with developing a phenomenological account of moral intentionality, we shall also investigate the historical background against which such theories were developed and the contemporary theories to which this account might be fruitfully compared.

In developing this account, we shall focus our attention on those views that emphasize the role of feelings and emotions in the disclosure of what is morally salient in states of affairs and of what (and who) is morally good. Such a view, of course, has connections to eudaimonistic, axiological, and virtue approaches to ethics. We shall explore some of these connections, but we shall also briefly take note of some critiques of these views, especially those that arise out of the view that the notion of the obligatory is prior to that of the good.

### *Texts*

Paul Ricoeur, *Freedom and Nature: The Voluntary and the Involuntary*, trans. Erazim V. Kohák (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 2007), ISBN: 0810123983

Max Scheler, *Formalism in Ethics and Non-Formal Theories of Values: A New Attempt toward the Foundation of an Ethical Personalism*, trans. Manfred S. Frings and Roger L. Funk (Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1973), ISBN: 0810106205

Online Readings (E-res course password = intentionality)

For the Aristotle, Hume, and Kant readings, you may use any edition (I am assuming you have one!)

### *Schedule*

#### **Date & Topic    Readings**

September 7:    John Drummond, “Phenomenology: Neither Auto- Nor Hetero- Be,”  
Introduction    *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 6 (2007): 57–74 ([E-res](#)) and/or  
Drummond, “Personal Perspectives,” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy* 45  
(2007 Supplement): 28–44 ([E-res](#)). [The first paper is an argument against  
Dennett that clarifies by contrast Husserl’s view of phenomenology; the  
second paper repeats that argument, while also arguing for the necessity of the  
first-person perspective against second-person views like those of Levinas and  
Darwall.]

John Drummond, “The Structure of Intentionality,” in *The New Husserl: A  
Critical Reader*, ed. Donn Welton (Bloomington: Indiana University Press,  
2003), 65–92 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

#### **I. Feelings, Emotions, and Evaluative Intentions**

September 14:    Aristotle, *On the Soul*, 403a3–403b2; 431b2–9; 432a15–433b30.  
The Aristotelian    Aristotle, *On the Movement of Animals*, 701b34–702a21; 703a4–703b2.  
Context    Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 1102a26–1103a3; 1104b4–14; 1105b18–1106a6;  
1106b15–1107a26; 1109a20–29; 1109b20–26; 1112b12–1113b5;  
1114b26–1115a3; 1126b4–5; 1139a21–1139b5; 1142a22–1142b35.  
Aristotle, *Eudemian Ethics*, 1220b5–20.  
Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, 1378a21–1378b9.

#### *Optional Readings:*

John Cooper, *Reason and Emotion* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999),  
237–80 (Reserve Shelf).

Martha Nussbaum, *The Fragility of Goodness* (Cambridge: Cambridge University  
Press, 1986), 264–89 (Reserve Shelf).

Nancy Sherman, *The Fabric of Character* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989),  
13–55, 157–99 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

**Date & Topic    Readings**

September 21: David Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, 2.1.I–III; 2.2.I–III, VI–X; 2.3.I–IV.  
The Humean Context David Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, §1; Appendix I.

*Optional Readings:*

Michael Slote, “Moral Sentimentalism and Moral Psychology,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory* ed. David Copp (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006), 219–39 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

Peter Railton, “Humean Theory of Practical Rationality,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, 264–81 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

*Optional Reading (for German readers):*

Edmund Husserl, *Einleitung in die Ethik, Vorlesungen Sommersemester 1920 und 1924*, ed. Henning Peucker (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 2004), 172–99 (Reserve Shelf).

**II. Evaluative Intentionality and the Good**

September 28: Franz Brentano, *The Origin of Our Knowledge of Right and Wrong*, 13–33 ([E-res](#)).  
Axiology

Franz Brentano, *The Foundation and Construction of Ethics*, 38–66 ([E-res](#)).

*Optional Reading:*

Thomas Hurka, “Value Theory”, in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, 357–79 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

Kevin Mulligan, “Emotions and Values,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion*, ed. Peter Goldie (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 475–500 ([E-res](#)).

October 5: Edmund Husserl, *Ethics and the Theory of Value*, 1–42 ([E-res](#)).  
Evaluation

*Optional Readings:*

John Drummond, “Moral Objectivity: Husserl’s Sentiments of the Understanding,” *Husserl Studies* 12 (1995): 165–183 ([E-res](#)).

John Drummond, “Aristotelianism and Phenomenology,” in *Phenomenological Approaches to Moral Philosophy*, ed. John J. Drummond and Lester Embree (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002), 15–38 ([E-res](#)).

*Optional Readings (for German readers):*

Edmund Husserl, *Vorlesungen über Ethik und Wertlehre 1908–1914*, ed. Ullrich Melle (Dordrecht: Kluwer, 1988), 237–69 (Reserve Shelf).

Edmund Husserl, *Einleitung in die Ethik, Vorlesungen Sommersemester 1920 und 1924*, 125–71 (Reserve Shelf).

<b>Date &amp; Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
October 12: Evaluation	<p>Max Scheler, <i>Formalism in Ethics and Non-Formal Ethics of Values</i>, 12–23, 253–64.</p> <p><i>Optional Reading:</i> Jonathan Sanford, “Affective Insight: Scheler on Feeling and Values,” <i>Proceedings of American Catholic Philosophical Association</i> 76 (2002): 165–81 (available online through the library’s <a href="#">electronic catalog</a>). A.G. Pleydell-Pearce, “Feelings, Values, and Judgments,” <i>Journal of the British Society for Phenomenology</i> 9 (1978): 158–66 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p>
October 19: Value	<p>Max Scheler, <i>Formalism in Ethics and Non-Formal Ethics of Values</i>, 23–30, 85–110.</p> <p><i>Optional Reading:</i> Imtiaz Moosa, “A Critical Examination of Scheler’s Justification of the Existence of Values,” <i>Journal of Value Inquiry</i> (1991): 23–41 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p>
October 26: Situating Phenomenologi- cal Approaches	<p>John Mackie, “The Subjectivity of Values,” in <i>Foundations of Ethics</i>, 13–22 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p> <p>Simon Blackburn, “How to Be an Ethical Anti-Realist,” in <i>Foundations of Ethics</i>, 47–57 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p> <p>Simon Blackburn, “Antirealist Expressivism and Quasi-Realism,” in <i>The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory</i>, 146–162 (available online through library’s <a href="#">electronic catalog</a>).</p> <p>Peter Railton, “Moral Realism,” in <i>Foundations of Ethics</i>, 186–205 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p>
<b>III. Volition</b>	
November 2: Volition	<p>Edmund Husserl, <i>Ethics and the Theory of Value</i>, 42–56 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p> <p><i>Optional Readings:</i> Ullrich Melle, “Husserl’s Phenomenology of Willing,” in <i>Phenomenology of Values and Valuing</i>, 169–92 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p> <p>Karl Mertens, “Husserl’s Phenomenology of Will in his Reflections on Ethics,” in <i>Alterity and Facticity</i>, 121–38 (<a href="#">E-res</a>).</p>
November 9: Volition	<p>Max Scheler, <i>Formalism in Ethics and Non-Formal Ethics of Values</i>, 111–59.</p>
November 16: Volition	<p>Paul Ricoeur, <i>Freedom and Nature</i>, 37–84.</p>
November 23: Volition	<p>Paul Ricoeur, <i>Freedom and Nature</i>, 135–81, 201–16.</p>

**Date & Topic    Readings****IV. The Obligatory**

November 30: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork*, sections I–II.  
 Deontology Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*, Bk. I, chap. I (up to the deduction of the principles of pure practical reason); chap II (up to the topic of pure practical judgment).

*Optional Readings:*

Christine Korsgaard, “Kant’s Formula of Universal Law,” in *Ethical Theory: An Anthology*, 540–52 ([E-res](#)).

Stephen Darwall, “Morality and Practical Reason: A Kantian Approach,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, 282–320 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

David McNaughton and Piers Rawling, “Deontology,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, 424–458 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

Thomas E. Hill, Jr., “Kantian Normative Ethics,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, 480–514 (available online through library’s [electronic catalog](#)).

*Optional Reading (for German readers):*

Edmund Husserl, *Einleitung in die Ethik, Vorlesungen Sommersemester 1920 und 1924*, 200–43 (Reserve Shelf).

December 7: Max Scheler, *Formalism in Ethics and Non-Formal Ethics of Values*, 163–238.  
 Felt Demand Maurice Mandelbaum, *Phenomenology of Moral Experience*, 45–93 (Reserve Shelf).  
 John Drummond, “Aristotelianism and Phenomenology,” 39–45 ([E-res](#)).

**V. Agents, Agency, and the Goods of Agency**

December 14: Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason*, Bk. I, chap. III (up to the critical  
 The Duty of elucidation of the analytic of pure practical reason).  
 Virtue Immanuel Kant, *Metaphysics of Morals*, Part II, Introduction (all).  
 Maurice Mandelbaum, *Phenomenology of Moral Experience*, 134–81 (Reserve Shelf).

## **Date & Topic    Readings**

December 21: Edmund Husserl, *Ethics and the Theory of Value*, 57–77 ([E-res](#)).  
 The Good and John Drummond, “Moral Encounters” *Recherches husserliennes* 16 (2001):  
 the Obligatory 39–60 ([E-res](#)).  
 John Drummond, “Respect as a Moral Emotion: A Phenomenological Approach,”  
*Husserl Studies* 22 (2006): 1–27 ([E-res](#)).  
 John Drummond, “Moral Phenomenology and Moral Intentionality,”  
*Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* 7 (2008): 35–49 ([E-res](#)).  
 John Drummond, “Self-Responsibility and Eudaimonia,” *Edmund Husserl 150*  
*Years: Philosophy, Phenomenology, Sciences* (Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic  
 Publishers, forthcoming) ([E-res](#)).

### *Optional Reading:*

Max Scheler, *Formalism in Ethics and Non-Formal Ethics of Values*, pp.  
 239–369.

## ***Requirements***

1. Participation in class discussions; 10%.
2. Presentation paper, 20%: Each student will write one presentation paper (approximately 10 pages) on the readings assigned for the day of the presentation. The paper will be distributed to the class by e-mail no later than midnight of the Friday preceding the class. The paper should *not* be an exposition of the readings. It should focus on the issues common to and at stake in the readings and form a thesis regarding the readings taken as a whole, or it should raise questions about the readings, or make critical and evaluative remarks. The paper will not be read in class, but its author will be required to present a five-minute to ten-minute summary of its main points.
3. Prepared comments, 10%: Each presentation paper will have a commentator. The commentator should prepare a critical comment of five to ten minutes (approximately 2–4 pages). The comments will be read in class, and the author of the paper will respond. General discussion will follow.
4. Research paper, 60%: Each student is expected to submit a research paper of 5000 to 7000 words. The papers can be on any topic that touches on the themes discussed in the course. I recommend that you discuss your topics with me. The research papers may be based on a presentation paper or comment, but need not be. The paper is due on the last day of class (December 21).