



Switch role to...



Turn editing on

People

[Participants](#)

Activities

[Assignments](#)
 [Resources](#)
 [Wikis](#)

Search Forums

[Advanced search](#)

Administration

[Turn editing on](#)
 [Settings](#)
 [Assign roles](#)
 [Grades](#)
 [Outcomes](#)
 [Groups](#)
 [Backup](#)
 [Restore](#)
 [Import](#)
 [Reset](#)
 [Reports](#)
 [Questions](#)
 [Files](#)

Weekly outline

Welcome! You've reached the moodle site for Metaethics (PHIL 61085 and 49995), taught by Dr. Michael Byron at Kent State University.

The course description, syllabus, and weekly schedule all appear below.

- [Course Description](#)
- [Syllabus](#)
- [Paper guidelines](#)
- [Metaethics Readings](#)
- [Stanford Encyclopedia entry for 'metaethics'](#)
- [Metaethics bibliography online](#)
- [Reading Notes](#)

Buy Miller's metaethics book (required) [here](#) or [here](#).

Buy Thomas's ethics book (recommended) [here](#) or [here](#).

31 August - 6 September

Week 1: Introduction & Orientation

Topics: Normative vs. metaethics, moral epistemology, moral ontology, moral psychology, moral semantics

Readings: Miller [ch. 1](#), Thomas [ch. 1](#)

Upcoming Events

There are no upcoming events


[Go to calendar...](#)

[New Event...](#)

Recent Activity

Activity since Monday, 14 September 2009, 05:29 am
[Full report of recent activity...](#)

Nothing new since your last login

 [Unenrol me from Metaethics F09 Profile](#)

Course categories 

 [Undergraduate](#)
 [Graduate](#)

[All courses ...](#)

7 September - 13 September

Week 2: Moore's non-naturalism

Topics: Naturalistic fallacy, open question argument, responses & defenses

Readings: Miller [ch. 2](#), Thomas 30.1.3, [Moore](#)

 [Direct Link to Reading Notes: Non-naturalism](#)

14 September - 20 September

Week 3: Emotivism & non-naturalism

Topics: Ayer's argument, Stevenson's emotivism

Readings: Miller ch. 3 (3.1-3), Thomas 15.1, [Stevenson](#)

 [Direct Link to Reading Notes: Emotivism](#)

21 September - 27 September

Week 4: Prescriptivism & Emotivism

Topics: Hare's theory, problems with emotivism

Readings: Miller ch. 3 (3.4-7), Thomas 12, [Hare Ch. 6](#)

 [Direct link to Prescriptivism Reading Notes](#)

 [Gensler's Prescriptivism Site](#)

28 September - 4 October

Week 5: Blackburn's Quasi-realism

Topics: Projectivism, "solvency", supervenience, mind-dependence

Readings: Miller ch. 4 (4.1-7), Blackburn [Ch. 5](#) and [Ch. 6](#)

5 October - 11 October

Week 6: Blackburn cont'd

Topics: Evaluating Blackburn

Readings: Miller ch. 4 (4.8-11), Blackburn "[Quasi-realism](#)"

 [Direct Link to Quasi-realism Reading Notes](#)

12 October - 18 October

Week 7: Gibbard's Norm-expressivism

Topics: Normativity, expressivism, moral attitudes

Readings: Miller ch. 5, Gibbard [Chs. 1 & 5](#)

19 October - 25 October

Week 8: Mackie's Error Theory

Topics: Cognitivism without realism, argument from queerness

Readings: Miller ch. 6, Mackie

 [Paper 1](#)

26 October - 1 November

Week 9: Wright's Best opinion account

Topics: Judgment dependence, dispositional account of value

Readings: Miller ch. 7, Wright "[Moral Values...](#)"

2 November - 8 November

Week 10: Foot's Categorical Theory

Topics: Moral importance, criteria, categoriality

Readings: Thomas 13-14, Foot "[Moral Beliefs](#)"

9 November - 15 November

Week 11: Naturalism 1 - Cornell Realism

Topics: Reductionism, efficacious facts, explanatory power

Readings: Miller ch. 8 (8.1-6), Sturgeon

16 November - 22 November

Week 12: Naturalism 1 continued

Topics: naturalism, objections & replies


Readings: Miller ch. 8 (8.7-11), TBA

23 November - 29 November

Week 13: Naturalism 2 - Reductionism

Topics: varieties of naturalism, revisionism, full information accounts

Readings: Miller ch. 9 (9.1-8), Railton "[Moral Realism](#)"

 [Direct Link to reductive naturalism Reading Notes](#)

30 November - 6 December

Week 14: Naturalism 2 continued

Topics: Internalism, rationalism, permutation problem

Readings: Miller ch. 9 (9.9-14), Smith ch. 2

7 December - 13 December

Week 15: Non-naturalism

Topics: Disentangling, secondary qualities, non-Humean motivation

Readings: Miller ch. 10, McDowell

 [Paper 2](#)

14 December - 20 December

Final Exam: Dec. 16 @ 12:45

You are logged in as [Michael Byron](#) (Logout)

[Home](#)

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)

Metaethics Byron F09



Jump to...



[KSU Moodle](#) ► [Metaethics F09](#) ► [Resources](#) ► [Syllabus](#)

Update this Resource

Instructor:	Michael Byron	Meets:	TR 12:30-1:45
Office:	320 Bowman	Room:	315 Bowman
E-mail	mbyron@kent.edu		
Office hours	MW 9:30-12, & by appt.		

Texts:

1. Alexander Miller, *An Introduction to Contemporary Metaethics* (required)
3. Geoffrey Thomas, *An Introduction to Ethics* (recommended)

Requirements:

Undergraduates: 2 short papers (5-7pp), class contribution, final exam
Graduate students: 2 papers (10-12pp), class contribution, final exam

Expectations:

Attendance & Contribution: In accordance with university policy, students are expected to attend class. Absences may be excused with proper documentation indicating an objectively good reason for missing class. Each unexcused absence will deduct 1/2% from your final course grade.

Every student should come prepared for class. That means, at a minimum, that you should bring your book and a prepared mind to every class meeting. Your contribution will sometimes include answering questions from me or from other students.

An additional element of your contribution will be participation in the online course elements, including discussion forums.

Grading:

- Contribution: 20%
- Papers: 50%
- Final exam: 30%

Academic Complaints:

The Provost has directed every Department within the University to recognize and follow a common procedure for handling student academic complaints. The Department of Philosophy has established such a procedure. The following paragraph is included on every syllabus for every course taught in the Department of Philosophy.

"The Philosophy Department's procedures for handling student academic complaints is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-4-16 in the University Policy Register. For information concerning details of that procedure, please see the Departmental Chairperson."

Students with Disabilities:

The Provost has directed every Department within the University to assure access to students with disabilities. The following paragraph is included on every syllabus for every course taught in the Department of Philosophy.

"University policy 3342-3-18 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit <http://www.kent.edu/sas> for more information on registration procedures)."

FERPA Statement:

This course may require contribution to a discussion forum, wiki, blogs, and other collaborative projects. Collaborative projects by their very nature expose student work products to other students and possibly members of the public, although graded work and student grades will never be disclosed. Nonetheless, the nature of collaborative work might make it impossible to protect all of students' privacy rights under applicable provisions of FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). Students remaining in the class thus agree to waive their applicable FERPA rights for any and all such collaborative work for this course.

Last modified: Thursday, 27 August 2009, 10:49 am

You are logged in as [Michael Byron](#) ([Logout](#))

Metaethics F09

 [Moodle Docs for this page](#)