

PHIL 214: Early Modern Philosophy
Spring 2015 Spinoza's Ethics

Th 1-3:50 p.m., Philosophy Seminar Room
Don Rutherford; H&SS 8046
Office hours: M 4-5 p.m., and by appointment

The goals of this seminar are to undertake a careful study of Spinoza's *Ethics* (1677); to acquire an understanding of the scope of Spinoza's philosophical project and the details of the doctrines he defends; and to address some of the outstanding interpretative issues raised in the recent secondary literature. This will count as a core course in the history of philosophy, which means it makes no assumption that participants have read Spinoza before; as a graduate seminar in philosophy, however, it assumes that you will work to get up to speed quickly on the material and engage the texts and issues in a serious manner.

Required Text

A Spinoza Reader, ed. and trans. Edwin Curley (Princeton, 1994). All other readings will be made available in electronic form or as hard copies in the department library.

Course Format and Requirements

Following the first meeting, we'll spend two weeks each of parts 1-4 of the *Ethics* and one week on part 5. The seminar will involve alternating meetings devoted to explication of the basic doctrines (even weeks) and deeper analysis of particular topics (odd weeks). All participants are expected to do all the assigned reading each week. On even weeks, we will focus on the text and try to get as clear as we can on the scope and content of Spinoza's views. On odd weeks, participants will take the lead in presenting on particular topics through recent articles from the secondary literature. In the lists of articles below, # indicates a required article for discussion.

Everyone registered for credit will be required to submit a 15-20 pp. term paper by Friday of exam week (June 12). I will meet with all registered students to discuss your paper topics during 9th week. Final grades will be determined by the following rough formula: Term paper = 50%; Research presentation/Participation = 50%.

Schedule of Readings

Meeting 1 4/2 Philosophy and Religion

Theological-Political Treatise, Preface, chs. 12-15

#Carlos Frankel, "Could Spinoza Have Presented the Ethics as the True Content of the Bible?"
Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy 4 (2008), 1-50

#Daniel Garber, "Should Spinoza Have Published His Philosophy", in *Interpreting Spinoza: Critical Essays*, ed. Charlie Huenemann (Cambridge University Press, 2008), 166-187

Meeting 2 4/9 Ethics, Part I
Issues: Substance/God and Attributes

Treatise on the Emendation of the Intellect, secs. 1-17 (*Spinoza Reader*, pp. 3-6)

Ethics, Part I (*Spinoza Reader*, pp. 85-115).

Letters 8-10, 80-83 (*Spinoza Reader*, pp. 77-82, 274-276)

Special attention to: Definitions and Axioms; Props. 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 21, 29, 33, 34;
Appendix

#Michael Della Rocca, "A Rationalist Manifesto: Spinoza and the Principle of Sufficient Reason," *Philosophical Topics* 21 (2003), 75-93.

Don Garrett, "Ethics Ip5: Shared Attributes and the Basis of Spinoza's Monism," in *Central Themes in Early Modern Philosophy*, ed. J.A.Cover and M. Kulstad

Michael Della Rocca, "Spinoza's Substance Monism," in Koistinen and Biro (2002), 11-37

John Carriero, "Monism in Spinoza," in Koistinen and Biro (2002), 38-59

Meeting 3 4/16 Part I Issues: Substance-Mode Relation, Necessitarianism

#Karolina Hübner, "Spinoza's Thinking Substance and the Necessity of Modes," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (2014).

#Karolina Hübner, "On the Significance of Formal Causes in Spinoza's Metaphysics," *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* (forthcoming).

Yitzhak Melamed, "Spinoza's Metaphysics of Substance: The Substance-Mode Relation as a Relation of Inherence and Predication," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 78 (2009), 17-82

Yitzhak Melamed, "Acosmism or Weak Individuals? Hegel, Spinoza, and the Reality of the Finite," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 48 (2010), 77-92

Don Garrett, "Spinoza's Necessitarianism," in *God and Nature: Spinoza's Metaphysics*, ed. Y. Yovel (1991), 191-218

Charles Huenemann, "The Necessity of Finite Modes and Geometrical Containment in Spinoza's Metaphysics," in Gennaro and Huenemann (1999), 224-240

Edwin Curley and Gregory Walski, "Spinoza's Necessitarianism Reconsidered," in Gennaro and Huenemann (1999), 241-262

Olli Koistinen, "Spinoza's Proof of Necessitarianism," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 67 (2003), 283-310.

Meeting 4 4/23 Ethics, Part II

Ethics, Part II

Letters 32, 63-66, 70, 72 (*Spinoza Reader*, pp. 82-4, 269-274)

Special attention to: Definitions and Axioms; Props. 7, 8, 11, 13; Physical Digression after 13; 16, 19, 23, 24, 29, 30, 33, 35, 38, 40&S, 43-49

#Michael Della Rocca, "Spinoza's Arguments for the Identity Theory," *Philosophical Review* 102 (1993), 183-213.

Meeting 5 4/30 Part II Issues: Parallelism/Identity Theory; Consciousness; Will

Don Garrett, "Representation and Consciousness in Spinoza's Naturalistic Theory of the Imagination," in *Interpreting Spinoza*, ed. Huenemann, 2008.

Steven Nadler, "Spinoza and Consciousness," *Mind* 117 (2008), 585-601

#Michael LeBuffe, "Theories about Consciousness in Spinoza's *Ethics*," *Philosophical Review* 119: (2010), 531-63.

#Michael Della Rocca, "The Power of an Idea: Spinoza's Critique of Pure Will," *Nous* (2003), 200-231.

Margaret Wilson, "Spinoza's Theory of Knowledge," in *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza*, 89-141

Meeting 6 5/7 Ethics, Part III

Ethics, Part III

Special attention to: Preface, Definitions; Props. 2&S, 4-12, 27, 39&S, 43, 58-59&S; Definitions of the Affects; General Definition of the Affects

#Michael Della Rocca, "Spinoza's Metaphysical Psychology," in *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza*, 192-266.

Meeting 7 5/14 Part III Issues: Teleology, Passions, Good/Evil

Don Garrett, "Teleology in Spinoza and Early Modern Rationalism," in Gennaro and Huenemann (1999), 310-335.

Don Garrett, "Spinoza's *Conatus* Argument," in Koistinen and Biro (2002), 127-158.

#Valtteri Viljanen, "On the Derivation and Meaning of Spinoza's *Conatus* Doctrine," *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 4 (2008), 89-112

Richard Manning, "Spinoza, Thoughtful Teleology, and the Causal Significance of Content," in Koistinen and Biro (2002), 182-209

Charles Jarrett, "Spinoza on the Relativity of Good and Evil," in Koistinen and Biro (2002), 159-181.

#Jon Miller, "Spinoza's Axiology," *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 2 (2005), 149-72.

Matthew Kisner, "Perfection and Desire: Spinoza on the Good," *PPQ* 91 (2010), 97-117

Meeting 8 5/21 Ethics, Part IV

Ethics, Part IV

Letter 58 (*Spinoza Reader*, pp. 267-9)

Special attention to: Preface and Definition; Props. 4-8, 15, 18-28, 34-37, 46-47, 52, 59, 62-73; Appendix

#Don Garrett, "Spinoza's Ethical Theory," in *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza*,

Meeting 9 5/28 Part IV Issues: Virtue, Morality, the Free Man

Edwin Curley, "Spinoza's Moral Philosophy," in Grene (1973), 354-376

Michael Della Rocca, "Egoism and the Imitation of Affects in Spinoza," in *Spinoza on Reason and the Free Man*, ed. Yovel and Segal (2004), 123-43

#Matthew Kisner, "Spinoza on Benevolence: The Rational Basis for Acting to the Benefit of Others," *JHP* 47 (2009), 549-67

Donald Rutherford, "Spinoza and the Dictates of Reason," *Inquiry* 51 (2008), 485-511

Michael LeBuffe, "Spinoza's *Summum Bonum*," *PPQ* 86 (2005), 243-266

Michael LeBuffe, "Spinozistic Perfectionism," *HPQ* 27 (2010), 317-333.

Don Garrett, "'A Free Man Always Acts Honestly, Not Deceptively': Freedom and the Good in Spinoza's Ethics," in Curley and Moreau (1990), 221-238

Daniel Garber, "Dr. Fischelson's Dilemma: Spinoza on Freedom and Sociability," in *Spinoza on Reason and the Free Man*, ed. Yovel and Segal (2004), 183-207

Matthew Kisner, "Spinoza's Model of Human Nature: Rethinking the Free Man" *Oxford Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 5 (2010)

Edwin Curley, "Kissinger, Spinoza, and Genghis Khan," in *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza*, 315-342

**Meeting 10 6/4 Ethics, Part V
Issues: Remedy for the Passions, Eternity of Mind, Salvation**

Ethics, Part V

Special attention to: Preface; Props. 2-4, 20&S, 23-36, 39&S, 42&S

Martin Lin, "The Power of Reason in Spinoza," *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza's Ethics*, ed. Koistinen

#Don Garrett, "Spinoza on the Essence of the Human Body and the Part of the Mind that is Eternal," *Cambridge Companion to Spinoza's Ethics*, ed. Koistinen

Michael LeBuffe, "Change and the Eternal Part of the Mind in Spinoza," *PPQ* 91 (2010), 369-84

Donald Rutherford, "Salvation as a State of Mind: The Place of *Acquiescentia* in Spinoza's Ethics," *British Journal of the History of Philosophy* 7, (1999), 447-473

Spinoza-Selected Bibliography

(* = in Philosophy Department library; for the sake of other members of the seminar, please do not borrow these during fall quarter)

Spinoza's Works

- **Spinoza Opera*, ed. Carl Gebhardt (1925) [critical edition with original language text]
- *Benedict Spinoza, *The Political Works* ed. A. G. Werham (Oxford, 1925) [Latin-English ed. of *TTP* and the *Political Treatise*]
- **The Collected Works of Spinoza*, vol. 1. Edited and translated by Edwin Curley (Princeton, 1985) [now the standard English translation; the translations in the *Spinoza Reader* are excerpts from it]

General

- Steven Nadler, *Spinoza: A Life* (Cambridge, 1999)
- Jonathan Israel, *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity 1650-1750* (Oxford, 2001)

Monographs

- *Henry E. Allison, *Benedict de Spinoza: An Introduction* (Yale, 2nd ed. 1987)
- Jonathan Bennett, *A Study of Spinoza's Ethics* (Hackett, 1984)
- *E. M. Curley, *Spinoza's Metaphysics: An Essay in Interpretation* (Harvard, 1969)
- Edwin Curley, *Behind the Geometrical Method: A Reading of Spinoza's Ethics* (Princeton, 1988)
- Michael Della Rocca, *Spinoza* (Routledge, 2008)**
- R. J. Delahunty, *Spinoza* (Routledge, 1985)
- Alan Donagan, *Spinoza* (Chicago, 1988)
- Matthew Kisner, *Spinoza on Human Freedom: Reason, Autonomy and the Good Life* (CUP, 2011)**
- Michael LeBuffe, *From Bondage to Freedom* (Oxford, 2010)**
- Steven Nadler, *Spinoza's Heresy* (Oxford, 2002)
- Steven Nadler, *Spinoza's Ethics: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2006)**
- Harry A. Wolfson, *The Philosophy of Spinoza*, 2 vols. (Harvard, 1934)

Collections

- **The Cambridge Companion to Spinoza*, ed. Don Garrett (Cambridge, 1996)
- The Cambridge Companion to Spinoza's Ethics*, ed. Olli Koistinen (Cambridge, 2009)
- Interpreting Spinoza*, ed. Charlie Huenemann (Cambridge, 2008)
- New Essays on the Rationalists*, ed. Rocco J. Gennaro and Charles Huenemann (Oxford, 1999)
- **Spinoza: A Collection of Critical Essays*, ed. Marjorie Grene (Notre Dame, 1973)
- **Spinoza: Essays in Interpretation*, ed. M. Mandelbaum and E. Freeman (Open Court, 1975)
- Spinoza: Issues and Directions*, ed. E. Curley and P.-F. Moreau (Brill, 1990)
- Spinoza: Metaphysical Themes*, ed. O. Koistinen and J. Biro (Oxford, 2002)
- Spinoza: New Perspectives*, ed. Robert W. Shahan and J. I. Biro (Oklahoma, 1978)
- Spinoza on Reason and the Free Man*, ed. Y. Yovel and G. Segal (Little Room Press, 2004)
- **Studies in Spinoza*, ed. S. Paul Kashup (California, 1972)