

**PHIL 161: Topics in the History of Ethics**  
**Winter 2012**  
**Professor David O. Brink**  
**Topic: Mill's Moral and Political Philosophy**  
**Syllabus**

Here is a list of topics and readings. The readings are divided into (A) required readings and (B) recommended readings. The recommended readings are optional and intended to be useful supplements to the required readings for students who would like to do more reading (interested students can also follow the "footnote trail" in *Mill's Progressive Principles*). Full publication details for the recommended readings can be found in the Bibliography. If you have trouble getting access to recommended readings, let me know and I may be able to help. It is important to do the readings in the order in which they are listed. Most of the required readings can be found in the required text, online sources (listed on the Course Description), and Ted, though a small number of required readings will be available on Electronic Reserves (these are indicated as ER below). Though we will progress through the topics and readings in the order in which they are listed below, I have not put dates into the Syllabus, because I want our pace to be determined by our actual rate of progress, rather some predetermined timetable. I will issue regular reminders about where we are in the Syllabus (remind me if I don't).

0. General

- (B) Berger, *Happiness, Justice, and Freedom: The Moral and Political Philosophy of John Stuart Mill*; Lyons, *Rights, Welfare, and Mill's Moral Theory*; Crisp, *Mill On Utilitarianism*; *Mill's Utilitarianism: Critical Essays*, ed. Lyons; *On Liberty: Critical Essays*, ed. G. Dworkin.

1. Mill's Radical Background

- (A) Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, chs. I and IV [online]; Brink *Mill's Progressive Principles*, ch. 1 [Ted].
- (B) James Mill, *An Essay on Government*.

2. Varieties of Motivation

- (A) Mill, "Remarks on Bentham's Philosophy" and "Bentham" [*Collected Works*, vol. X]; Mill, *Utilitarianism* [CW X], chs. II-III; Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" [<http://www.utilitarian.net/singer/by/1972----.htm>]; and Brink, *Mill's Progressive Principles*, ch. 2.

3. Happiness and Higher Pleasures

- (A) Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ch. II and Brink, *Mill's Progressive Principles*, ch. 3.
- (B) Kraut, "Two Conception of Happiness" and Feldman, *Pleasure and the Good Life*, ch. 4.

4. Duty and Justice

- (A) Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ch. V and Brink, *Mill's Progressive Principles*, ch. 4.

- (B) Lyons, “Mill’s Theory of Morality” and “Mill’s Theory of Justice” in *Rights, Welfare, and Moral Theory*; Jacobson, “Utilitarianism without Consequentialism: The Case of John Stuart Mill.”

#### 5. The Proof of Utilitarianism

- (A) Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chs. I and IV and Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 5.

#### 6. Liberal Preliminaries

- (A) Mill, *On Liberty* [CW XVIII], esp. ch. I, and Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 6.
- (B) Jacobson, “Mill on Liberty, Speech, and the Free Society”.

#### 7. Freedom of Expression

- (A) Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. II-III and Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 7.

#### 8. Liberal Principles Refined

- (A) Mill, *On Liberty*, chs. I and III-V; Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 8; Feinberg, *Offense to Others*, chs. 7-8 [ER]; and Devlin, “The Enforcement of Morals” [ER].
- (B) Lyons, “Liberty and Harm to Others;” Arneson, “Paternalism, Utility, and Fairness” and Jacobson, “Mill on Liberty, Speech, and the Free Society”.

#### 9. Liberalism, Utilitarianism, and Rights

- (A) Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 9.
- (B) Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* §§5-6; Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, pp. 28-35; Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously*, pp. xi, 184-205.

#### 10. Sexual Equality

- (A) Mill, *The Subjection of Women* [CW XXI] and Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 11.
- (B) Annas, “Mill and the Subjection of Women.”

#### 11. Liberal Democracy

- (A) Mill, *Considerations on Representative Democracy* [CW XIX], esp. chs. II-VIII, and *Principles of Political Economy* [CW II-III] II.i-iii, II.xii-xv, IV.vi-vii, V.ii-iii, V.xi.; and Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*, ch. 10.
- (B) Estlund, *Democratic Authority*, ch. 11; and Kraut, “Politics, Neutrality, and the Good.”