I. Meta-Ethics

I.A. The Possibility of Ethics
Are there any true ethical claims?
What, if anything, makes an ethical claim true?
Is relativism about ethical claims correct?
Bernard Williams, ‘Subjectivism’

I.B. The Basis of Ethics
Does morality require a religious basis?
Plato, ‘Euthyphro’
David Brink, ‘The Autonomy of Ethics’
Does morality rest on psychological egoism?
Is altruism possible?
Joel Feinberg, ‘Psychological Egoism’

I.C. Values in Ethics
Does an individual’s good consist in his or her pleasure?
Bentham, An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, ch. I
Does desire satisfaction have value when it occurs unbeknownst to the individual?
Robert Nozick, ‘The Experience Machine’

II. Normative Ethics

II.A. The Formal Structure of Ethics
What is the relationship between right acts and good acts?

II.B. Utilitarianism
Varieties of Utilitarianism
UF&A, PI: §2 & §3
Altruism, Benevolence, Emotions, & Fairness
UF&A, PI: §4 & §5
Right/Wrong vs. Rational/Irrational, Future Generations
UF&A, PI: §6 & §7
Utilitarianism, Justice, & Meta-Ethics
UF&A, PI: §9 & §10

II.C. Critique of Utilitarianism
The Structure of Consequentialism
UF&A, P2: §1 & §2
Negative Responsibility Revisited, Remoter Effects
UF&A, P2: §3 & §4
Integrity
UF&A, P2: §5
Indirect (Self-Effacing) Utilitarianism, Social Choices
UF&A, P2: §6 & §7

II.D. Kantian Ethics
Duty and the Good Will
GMM: Preface, First Section
Hypothetical and Categorical Imperatives
GMM: Second Section, first half
Universal Law
GMM: Second Section, second half

III. Applied Ethics

III.A. World Hunger
Is Utilitarianism Too Demanding?
Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”
Liam Murphy, “The Demands of Beneficence”

III.B. Intoxicated Consent
When does ‘yes’ mean ‘yes’?
Alan Wertheimer, “Intoxicated Consent to Sexual Relations”

III.C. Ethics of Driving
Is it permissible to make yourself safer by imposing risks on others?
Husak – “Vehicles and Crashes - Why Is This Moral Issue Overlooked?”