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


1. Mill’s Radical Background

- (B) James Mill, *An Essay on Government*.

2. Varieties of Motivation


3. Happiness and Higher Pleasures

- (B) Kraut, “Two Conception of Happiness” and Feldman, *Pleasure and the Good Life*, ch. 4.

4. Duty and Justice

5. The Proof of Utilitarianism

6. Liberal Preliminaries
   (B) Jacobson, “Mill on Liberty, Speech, and the Free Society”.

7. Freedom of Expression

8. Liberal Principles Refined

9. Liberalism, Utilitarianism, and Rights

10. Sexual Equality
    (B) Annas, “Mill and the Subjection of Women.”

11. Liberal Democracy
    (B) Estlund, *Democratic Authority*, ch. 11; and Kraut, “Politics, Neutrality, and the Good.”