

RETH 30100

Minor Classics in Ethics

2018-19 Reading List [2nd Cycle]

12:30-1:50pm

Location: Martin Marty Center Library, 2nd floor, Swift Hall

This is the second of a three-year cycle of readings for an informal, non-credit reading group consisting of RETH Faculty and Master's and doctoral students interested in religious ethics. Students may enter the course in any quarter.

Selected articles or chapters have revitalized forgotten themes or have launched new problems for moral philosophy, social thought, theology and religious ethics. They exhibit ways of combining attention to concepts and arguments in moral theory, on the one hand, with concrete matters in practical experience and public life, on the other.

Format: The format is informal. Students should come prepared to identify one sentence or paragraph that they find illuminating, obscure, or problematic.

Fall Quarter 2018: meetings on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 7th, and 9th week.

- Oct. 11** Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," in King, *Why We Can't Wait* (New York: New American Library, 1964), 76-95.
- Oct. 25** Reinhold Niebuhr, "Why the Christian Church Is Not Pacifist," in Niebuhr, *Christianity and Power Politics* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940), 1-30.
- Nov. 8** Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," at <http://anthropos-lab.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/Weber-Politics-as-a-Vocation.pdf>
- Nov. 15** Stanley Hauerwas, "Should War Be Eliminated?" in Hauerwas, *Against the Nations: War and Survival in a Liberal Society* (Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, 1985), 169-208.
- Nov. 29** Stephen Toulmin, "How Medicine Saved the Life of Ethics," *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 25.4 (Summer 1982): 736-50.

Winter Quarter 2019: meetings on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, and 10th week.

- Jan. 17** James M. Gustafson, "Context vs. Principles: A Misplaced Debate in Christian Ethics" *Harvard Theological Review* 58 no. 2 (April 1965): 171-202.
- Jan. 31** William James, "The Moral Equivalent of War," available on-line.

- Feb. 14** Charles Taylor, "Self-interpreting Animals" in Taylor, *Philosophical Papers I: Human Agency and Language* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 47-76.
- Feb. 28** Amartya Sen, "Human Rights and Asian Values," at https://www.carnegiecouncil.org/publications/archive/morgenthau/254.html/_res/id=sa_File1/254_sen.pdf
- Mar. 14** Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic" from Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1949), 201-21.
- Spring Quarter 2019: meetings on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th week of the quarter.**
- April 4** Valerie Saiving Goldstein, "The Human Condition," *Journal of Religion* 40.2 (April 1960): 100-112.
- April 18** Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty," reprinted from Oxford Scholarship Online.
- May 2** Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "On Christian Ethics," and "Ethics," from *A Testament to Freedom*.
- May 16** Charles E. Curran, "Natural Law," in *Themes in Fundamental Moral Theology* (Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1977), 27-80.
- May 30** Susan Moller Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" available online through the U of C library at <http://carli.eblib.com.proxy.uchicago.edu/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=768539>