

**Philosophy 230**  
Virtue Theory  
**Spring 2025**

MW 125-240  
West Duke 204

Prof. Gopal Sreenivasan  
West Duke 210  
[gopal.sreenivasan@duke.edu](mailto:gopal.sreenivasan@duke.edu)

**Reading schedule**

Jan 8	Introduction
Jan 13	Foot, "Virtues and vices," in her <i>Virtues and Vices</i> (California, 1978)
Jan 15	Hursthouse, <i>On Virtue Ethics</i> (Oxford, 1999), ch. 1
Jan 22	Hursthouse, <i>On Virtue Ethics</i> , ch. 8
Jan 27	No new reading
Jan 29	Prichard, "Does moral philosophy rest on a mistake?" <i>Mind</i> (1912): 21-37
Feb 3	GPT day
Feb 5	Sreenivasan, <i>Emotion and virtue</i> (Princeton, 2020), ch. 1, section 4
Feb 10	Driver, "The virtues and human nature," in Crisp (ed.) <i>How should one live?</i> (Oxford, 1996)
Feb 12	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , bk 2, chh. i-v
Feb 17	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , bk 2, chh. vi-ix
Feb 19	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , bk 3, chh. i-v
Feb 24	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , bk 3, chh. vi-xii
Feb 26	Pears, "Courage as a mean," in Rorty (ed.) <i>Essays on Aristotle's Ethics</i> (California, 1980)
March 3	GPT day
March 5	Sreenivasan, <i>Emotion and virtue</i> , ch. 9, part III
March 10	<i>Spring break</i>
March 17	Miller, <i>Honesty</i> (Oxford, 2021), chh. 1-2
March 19	Miller, <i>Honesty</i> , chh. 3-4
March 24	No new reading
March 26	Miller, <i>Honesty</i> , chh. 5-6
March 31	Urmson, "Saints and Heroes," in Melden (ed.) <i>Essays in Moral Philosophy</i> (University of Washington, 1958): 198-216
April 2	GPT day
April 7	Heyd, <i>Supererogation</i> (Cambridge, 1982), chh. 6-7
April 9	Heyd, <i>Supererogation</i> , ch. 8
April 14	No new reading

April 16      *No class*  
April 21      Kamm, "Supererogation and obligation," *Journal of Philosophy* (1985) 82(3):  
                  118-38  
April 23      Crisp, "Supererogation and virtue," *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 3 (2014)

*End of lectures*

### **Texts**

All readings except the Miller book will be made available in Canvas. Please purchase a copy of Miller.

### **Assignments**

There are no exams and no longer essays in this course. Instead, there will be a weekly short essay (500 words). Your 8 highest grades on these essays will count for 75% of your grade. (In effect, I will drop your lowest 5 or 6 grades).

### **Participation**

25% of your grade will be based on class participation. Attendance will be taken. If you have 3 absences (or fewer), your participation grade is guaranteed to be an A. If you have 8 absences (or more), your participation grade cannot be higher than B-. GPT days count double for attendance.

### **Office hours**

By appointment. Please e-mail me or arrange a meeting after class.

8 January, 2025