

Phil 451/651, EP&E 444, CGSC 451 Fall 2012

Violence and Human Dignity

Stephen Darwall

306 CH W 1-3pm and by appt

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There are deep connections between the concepts of violence and the distinctive kind of value we suppose human beings to have: a dignity that grounds basic human rights. We will examine these connections from philosophical, historical, psychological, and sociological perspectives.

Books ordered through Yale Bookstore

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge, 1998)

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (Harcourt, 1973)

Randall Collins, *Violence: a Micro-sociological Study* (Princeton, 2009)

Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature* (Penguin, 2012—paper, to be released 9/25)

Recommended, but not required: Stephen Darwall, *The Second-Person Standpoint: Morality, Respect, and Accountability*

Schedule of readings:

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| September 4  | Introduction   |
| September 11 | Newton Garver, “What Violence Is” (V2)<br><i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> entry on ‘violence’ (V2)<br>Robert Paul Wolff, “On Violence” (V2)<br>John Harris, “The Marxist Conception of Violence” (V2)<br>Joel Feinberg, “The Nature and Value of Rights” (V2)<br>John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chs. ii and iv (V2) |
| September 18 | Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , sect. ii<br>Christine Korsgaard, “Creating the Kingdom of Ends” (V2)   |
| September 25 | G.W.F. Hegel, <i>The Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (Oxford, 1977), 104-119 (V2)<br>Simone Weil, “The Iliad or the Poem of Force” (V2)<br>Martin Buber, <i>I and Thou</i> , selections (V2)<br>P. F. Strawson, “Freedom and Resentment” (V2)  |
| October 2    | Stephen Darwall, <i>The Second-Person Standpoint</i> , chs. 1-3 (V2)<br>Stephen Darwall, “Respect as Honor and as Accountability” (V2)   |
| October 9    | Hannah Arendt, <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i> , 54-122<br>Jean-Paul Sartre, <i>Anti-Semite and Jew</i> (Schocken 1995), selections (V2)<br>W. E. B. DuBois, <i>Souls of Black Folks</i> , selections (V2)   |
| October 16   | Randall Collins, <i>Violence: a Micro-sociological Study</i> , 1-104   |

October 23	Randall Collins, <i>Violence: a Micro-sociological Study</i> , 83-189
October 30	Steven Pinker, <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature</i> , 1-188
November 6	Steven Pinker, <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature</i> , 189-377
November 13	Steven Pinker, <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature</i> , 377-570
November 27	Steven Pinker, <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature</i> , 571-696
December 4	David Sussman, "What's Wrong With Torture?" (V2) Jeremy Waldron, <i>Torture, Terrorism, and Trade-offs</i> , 276-319 (V2)

Students taking the course will write 3 (2-3 page) response papers, sent electronically by 5 pm the Monday preceding the seminar—roughly  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the class will have response papers due in any given week.

Students will also write a 15-20 page essay on a topic of their choosing relevant to the class, which will be due on December 12 at 5 pm (sent electronically). Students should clear their topics with me by November 13 at 5 pm.