

Phil 450/650 Fall 2012    Thurs 1:30-3:20  
Recent Ethical Theory: Derek Parfit  
Stephen Darwall and Shelly Kagan

The seminar will involve a close study of Derek Parfit's *On What Matters* (ordered through the Yale Bookstore). Parfit presents his main arguments in Volume One. Volume Two consists of commentaries on Volume One by Susan Wolf, Allen Wood, Barbara Herman, and Tim Scanlon, replies by Parfit, and an extensive section (Part Six) on normativity. Both volumes have various appendices. We will try to work through all of this, in the following order:

- 8/30    No readings. General introduction.
- 9/6     Preface (xxxiii-xlv), Part One: Chs. 1-3 (31-82) and Appendix A (420-432)  
Suggested: Samuel Scheffler's Introduction (xix-xxxii) and Parfit's Summary (1-28)
- 9/13    Part One: Chs. 4-7 (83-174) and Appendix B (433-447)
- 9/20    Part Two: Chs. 8-11 (177-272)
- 9/27    Part Three: Chs. 12-14 (275-342)
- 10/4    Part Three: Chs. 15-17 (343-419) and Appendix C (448-451)
- 10/11   Part Four: Wolf, Wood, and Herman (33-115)  
Part Five: Chs. 18-20 (143-190)  
Suggested: Parfit's Summary (1-30)
- 10/18   Part Four: Scanlon (116-139)  
Part Five: Chs. 21-23 (191-259)
- 10/25   Break!
- 11/1    Part Six: Chs. 24-27 (263-377) and Appendix E (649-651)
- 11/8    Part Six: Chs. 28-30 (378-463)
- 11/15   Part Six: Chs. 31-32 (464-510) and Appendices D and J (623-648, 719-749)
- 11/23   Break!
- 11/30   Part Six: Chs. 33-36 (510-620)
- 12/6    Appendices F-I (652-718)

Course requirements: (i) Three response papers (2-3 pp) that critically engage something in the week's reading, due at roughly four-weekly intervals 5 pm the day before the seminar.

(ii) A final paper on a topic of your choosing (that engages the book). Topics should be sent to instructors for feedback by 11/15 5 pm.

Philosophy grad students should send a first draft to instructors by 12/6 5 pm. We will provide comments, and final drafts will be due 12/19 5 pm.

All others need not provide us a first draft, and their final papers will be due 12/12 5 pm.

Grades: 20% response papers, 20% participation in seminar, 60% final paper.