

## Moral Philosophy Course Syllabus

Instructor: Hamilton Xie

Weekly Classes On Fridays, 7:30-8:30 PM

### Course Description

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning more about moral philosophy and justice. This course will offer a brief account of major philosophical ideas, including Utilitarianism, Libertarianism, and Kantianism, and analyze these notions in depth. After learning about these philosophical ideas, students will engage in the theoretical exploration of different ethical dilemmas (etc. Trolley Problem). This course endeavors to inspire civic discussion between dissenting views of morals.

### Meeting Agenda

7/22 Meeting 1

Utilitarianism, Jeremy Bentham, Greatest Number is the Greatest Good

7/29 Meeting 2

John Stuart Mill, Higher and Lower Pleasure, Morality and Happiness, *On Liberty*

8/5 Meeting 3

Libertarianism, Left and Right, Anarchism

8/12 Meeting 4

John Rawls, "Fairness as Justice", Veil of Ignorance

8/19 Meeting 5

Immanuel Kant, Freedom, Highest Good, Categorical Imperative

8/26 Meeting 6

John Locke, Free Will, Property Right, Social Contract, Civil Government

9/2 Meeting 7

*Korematsu v. United States, PGA Tour v. Martin.* (Discussion & Facts of the Cases)

9/9 Meeting 8

Affirmative Action: Why or Why not? (Discussion & Facts of the Cases)

See *Grutter v. Bollinger, Hopwood v. Texas.*

9/16 Meeting 9

The Trolley Problem, *The Queen v. Dudley and Stevens.* (Discussion & Facts of the Cases)

9/23 Meeting 10

Why Study Philosophy and Ethics?

Recommended Reading

*Justice: What is the Right Thing to Do?* By Michael J. Sandel

*Second Treatise of Government*, By John Locke

*On Liberty*, By John Stuart Mill