

Valuing and Value
Phil 860
David Sobel
Th., 3:45-6:30, 538 Hall of Languages

This class will consider the relationship between something being valuable and someone valuing that thing. This relationship was explored, in the context of morality, in Plato's *Euthyphro*. The values we will focus on will be well-being and reasons for action, but aesthetic values might come up as well. Some think that the only way something can be good for me is if I in some way favor it. Others think my favoring attitudes are no part of what grounds such facts. Yet others think my attitudes are part of the story about why options are valuable for me, but there is another stance-independent part of the grounding of such facts. We will consider the merits of such views and read classic and contemporary exponents of such views.

These are some tentative readings I have in mind for the class, but I likely will change the readings in light of information about student interest:

Hume, *Treatise*, selections (bit about reason being the slave of the passions, role of reason, etc.), Mill, *Utilitarianism*, selections (bit about the competent judges' test), Sidgwick, *Methods of Ethics*, selections.

Williams, "Internal and External Reasons," Foot, "Morality as a System of Hypothetical Imperatives"

Railton, "Facts and Values," Rosati, "Persons, Perspectives, and Full Information Accounts of Personal Good"

Michael Smith, *The Moral Problem* (selections).

Mark Schroeder: *Slaves of the Passions* (selections)

Sharon Street: "Future Tuesday Indifference," "Coming to Terms with Contingency".

Derek Parfit: *On What Matters* (selections)

David Sobel: "The Case for Stance Dependent Values," and Wall and Sobel, "A Robust Hybrid Account of Well-Being"

Claire Elizabeth Kirwin, "Value Realism and Idiosyncrasy," Dale Dorsey, "Subjectivism Without Desire"

Chris Heathwood and Eden Lin on actual desire theories

Kagan and Parfit on "Loving the Good"

Crisp and Bramble on Hedonism

Foot, Hursthouse, Hurka on neo-Aristotelian objectivist accounts

Fletcher on Capturing Resonance within an Objective List account