

Course: ETH2

(Topics in Ethics II, MA course, summer semester 2016)

The course "Topics in Ethics II" aims at allowing the students deeply to investigate a cluster of important problems in contemporary Anglophone ethics. It has the form of a seminar in which the important papers in the discussion are read and discussed in English. For each year, a different topic is selected by the teacher. In summer semester 2016, the course focusses on the question whether it is possible and right to encourage loving responses to a wrongdoing of a beloved person. The course is based on reading and interpreting texts of the so called Platonic tradition in ethics (authors such as S. Kierkegaard, S. Weil, R. Gaita) and it examines ethical concepts connected with blame and love, in particular the concepts of forgiveness, reconciliation, humility and joy.

Programme of reading:

R. Holland, „Education and Value“ in *Against Empiricism*

I. Murdoch, „Sovereignty of the Good over Other Concepts“

S. Weil, *Gravity and Grace*, ch. "Love

S. Weil – "Iliad or the poem of force"

S. Kierkegaard, *The Works of Love I*, ch. IV

S. Kierkegaard, *The Works of Love II*, ch. V „Love hides a multitude of sins“

S. Kierkegaard, *The Works of Love II*, ch. VIII.

R. Gaita, *The Common Humanity*, ch. 1 "Goodness beyond Virtue"

Credits and final essays

The credit is granted for regular active attendance (max. 3 missed classes) and an essay at the end of the semester. Essays should meet the following criteria: have 2500 - 3000 words, use at least two sources, work with them properly (footnotes, quotations), be written in either Czech or English, be submitted before the given deadline.

Suggested essay topics (for inspiration, CZ means available also in Czech translation)

1. Love of the world

Holland, "Education and Value"

Gaita, *Good and Evil*, ch. "Ethical Other-Worldliness"

Weil, "Love of the Order of the World" in *Waiting for God* (Slovak translation in *Duchovná autobiografia*)

2. Weil and Murdoch on beauty and art

Weil, *Gravity and Grace*, ch. "Beauty" (and others)

Weil, "Human Personality" in *Simone Weil: An Anthology* (CZ)

Murdoch, "Sovereignty of Good over Other Concepts" (CZ)

Murdoch, „On 'God' and 'Good'“

3. Weil's conception of force and justice

Weil, "Iliad or the Poem of Might" (CZ)

Weil, "Are we Struggling for Justice?" in *Simone Weil: An Anthology* (CZ)

Weil, "Love of one's Neighbour" in *Waiting for God* (Slovak translation))

4. Weil on affliction and compassion

Weil, "Iliad or the Poem of Might" (CZ)

Weil, "Human Personality" (CZ)

- Weil, "Love of God and Affliction" in: *Waiting for God* (Slovak translation)
 Gaita, *Common Humanity*, ch. 1 – "Goodness beyond Virtue" (CZ)
5. Weil and Gaita on unconditional love
 Weil, *Gravity and Grace*, ch. "Love"
 Gaita, *Common Humanity*, ch. 1 – "Goodness beyond Virtue" (CZ)
6. Weil and Kierkegaard on love, vision and reality
 Weil, *Gravity and Grace*, ch. "Love"
 Kierkegaard, Works of Love part I, ch. IV; part II, ch. V
 John Lippitt, ...
 Troy Jollimore, Love's Vision
7. Kierkegaard on forgiveness and reconciliation
 Kierkegaard, Works of Love part II, ch. V, ch. VIII
 Jamie Ferreira, Love's Grateful Striving
 Glen Pettigrove, *Forgiveness and Love*

Bibliography

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- Gaita, R. A. (2006), *Good and Evil: An Absolute Conception*, Routledge, London – New York (1. vydání 1991).
- Holland, R. F. (1983), *Against Empiricism: On Education, Epistemology and Value*, Blackwell, Oxford.
- Jollimore, T. (2011), *Love's Vision*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Kierkegaard, S. (2000), *Skutky lásky*, Centrum pro studium demokracie a kultury, Brno.
- Kierkegaard, S. (1995), *Works of Love*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J.
- Murdoch, I., *The Sovereignty of Good*, Routledge, London 1970.
 „The Idea of Perfection“, s. 1–45.
 „On 'God' and 'Good'“, s. 46–76.
 „The Sovereignty of Good over Other Concepts“, s. 77–104.
- Murdoch, I. (1997), *Existentialists and Mystics: Writings on Philosophy and Literature*. Ed. Peter Conradi. London: Chatto & Windus.
 „The Sublime and the Good“ (1. vydání 1959)
 „The Fire and The Sun: Why Plato Banished the Artists“ (1. vydání 1977)
- Nussbaum, M., "Love and Vision..." In: *In Search of Human Goodness...*
- Pettigrove, G. (2012), *Forgiveness and Love*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
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 (1957a), „La personne et le sacré“, in: Weil (1957), s. 11–44.
 (1957b), „Luttons-nous pour la Justice?“, in: Weil (1957), s. 45–57.
- Weil, S. (2009), *Tíže a milost*, přel. Alan Beguivin, Kalich, Praha.
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