

PIP77102 — Moral Philosophy

Module Information	
Module Code	PIP77102
Module Title	Moral Philosophy
Department	Philosophy
Module Personnel	Dr Farbod Akhlaghi
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester	Semester 2 – Hilary Term
Contact Hours	22 hours (One 2-hour seminar per week)

Module Content	
Module Description	A core branch of moral philosophy is meta-ethics, where philosophers ask questions about the nature of morality. Some of those questions concern the metaphysics of morality. But what are debates over ‘the metaphysics of morality’ really about? What consequences do views of the nature and methodology of metaphysics more generally have for meta-ethics? And what is the relationship between ethics and meta-ethics anyway? In this module, these and related questions will guide our exploration of several contemporary problems in meta-ethics – specifically regarding the metaphysics of morality – where we will focus upon what these debates reveal about the assumptions that shape contemporary meta-ethics. We will cover recent developments in metaphysical debates in meta-ethics over, for example, moral supervenience, grounding, and truthmaking, both to explore these topics for their own sake, and to identify and assess the methodological and other assumptions that underlie inquiry into the nature of morality. The aim will be for students to develop their own ideas not only within meta-ethics but about what we are doing when we do meta-ethics.
Module Learning Aims	
Learning Outcomes	By the end of this module, students will be:

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	• able to present and explain several debates in and about the metaphysics of morality. • able to assess the plausibility of arguments in favour and against views in several debates in and about the metaphysics of morality. • able to formulate and defend their own views both in answer to debates in the metaphysics of morality and over the nature of meta-ethics itself.
Indicative Reading / Resources	

Assessment

Assessment Components	One, 3000-word Coursework essay (100%)
Assessment Details	

Additional Information

Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	The use of Generative AI is prohibited in any form for the planning, preparation, and production of either your coursework essay, or exam questions, for this module. This includes the use of Generative AI for brainstorming, research/learning assistance, writing assistance, or the inclusion of material/content generated directly or indirectly by such AI. You will be asked to declare in a coversheet that you have not used AI for these, or any other purposes related to the production of your coursework essay when submitting that essay in due course.