

PIU 88011 — Theories of Rights

Module Information	
Module Code	PIP88011
Module Title	Theories of Rights
Department	Philosophy
Module Personnel	Adina Preda
Academic Year	2026–27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	2 hour seminar per week

Module Content	
Module Description	The language of moral rights is pervasive both in everyday life and in legal, moral, and political philosophy. They are commonly invoked in support of claims of a certain weight. But there is no philosophical consensus on what rights are, what status or weight they have, or indeed who can have rights and what their content would be. This module, which blends arguments from legal, moral and political philosophy, will tackle some of these questions. The first part will focus on foundational questions about rights, while the second looks at some putative types of rights, such as welfare rights, and potential right-holders, such as animals, future generations and groups.
Module Learning Aims	
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this module, students will be expected to be able to - Understand the differences between different forms of right - Understand and critically assess different theories about the nature of rights, or direction of duties - Critically evaluate the role of rights in moral theory - Offer and assess different arguments about contested (types of) rights

Module Content

Indicative Reading / Resources

Jones, Peter *Rights*, MacMillan, 1994 (Introductory)
Kramer, M., N. Simmonds & H. Steiner (eds.) *A Debate over Rights: Philosophical Enquiries* Oxford, University Press, 1998 (more advanced)

Assessment

Assessment Components

Essay (100%)

Assessment Details

4000 words essay

Additional Information

Prerequisites

None

Co-requisites

None

Any other information