

Course Syllabus "Rationality" 2009/10

Structure, Schedule and Readings

Background Readings: In general, both the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (<http://plato.stanford.edu>) and *Wikipedia* are good and comprehensive sources of knowledge though the latter website should also be double-checked with other sources.

There will be three assignments, all of which have to be handed in. Each assignment is supposed to be roughly 700-1000 words long, unless specified otherwise. The deadlines are: 30 September 2009, 4 November 2009 and 2 December 2009.

There will be a written exam at the end of the course. It takes place on 16 December 2009.

The grade composition stands in the ESG.

Attendance and participation is a crucial element of the course.

1st week (2 September 2009)

Introduction into the course, selection of topics for Part III.

Part I: Classical Views: Hume and Kant

2nd week (9 September 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Hume, David (1739): *Treatise on Human Nature*, Book II, Part III, Section 3.

Hume, David (1751): *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Appendices I +II.

Background Reading:

Other parts of the "Treatise" and the second "Enquiry".

Norton, D. F. (ed., 1993): *The Cambridge Companion to Hume*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

Radcliffe, Elizabeth (ed., 2008): *A Companion to Hume*. Blackwell, London.

3rd week (16 September 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Kant, Immanuel (1785): *Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten*. Preface + Part I.

Background Reading:

Kant, Immanuel (1788): *Kritik der reinen Vernunft*.

Guyer, Paul (ed., 1992): *The Cambridge Companion to Kant*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

4th week (23 September 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Kant, Immanuel (1785): *Grundlegung zur Metaphysik der Sitten*. Part II.

Background Reading:

See 3rd week.

Part II: Challenges of Game Theory

5th week (30 September 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Bicchieri, Cristina (2004): "Rationality and Game Theory", in A. Mele (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Rationality*, pp. 182-205, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Hargreaves Heap, Shaun et al. (1992): *The Theory of Choice*, chapter 1 ("Rationality").

Background Reading:

Dreier, James (2004): "Decision Theory and Morality", in A. Mele (ed.): *The Oxford Handbook of Rationality*, pp. 156-181, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Hargreaves Heap, Shaun et al. (1992): *The Theory of Choice*, chapters 7-8 ("Game Theory" and "Bargaining").

6th week (7 October 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Binmore, Ken (2004): "Reciprocity and the Social Contract". *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* 3: pp. 5-35.

Background Reading:

Binmore, Ken (2007): *Playing for Real*. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

7th week (14 October 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Fehr, Ernst and Urs Fischbacher (2002): "Why Social Preferences Matter - The Impact of Non-selfish Motives on Competition, Cooperation and Incentives". *The Economic Journal* 112: C1-C33.

Background Reading:

Fehr, Ernst and Klaus Schmidt (1999): "A Theory of Fairness, Competition and Cooperation". *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 114: 817-868.

8th week (4 November 2009)

Compulsory Reading:

Binmore, Ken (ed., 2007): *Does Game Theory Work? The Bargaining Challenge*. MIT Press, Cambridge/MA. Introduction and Appendix A ("Fairmanship or Gamesmanship in Bargaining").

Background Reading:

Other chapters in the above book.

9th week (11 November 2009)

Concluding discussion on rationality, fairness and social norms.

Compulsory Reading:

Bicchieri, Cristina (2006): *The Grammar of Society. The Nature and Dynamics of Social Norms*. Chapters 1 + 3.

Background Reading:

Other chapters in the above book.

Part III: TBA

10th-12th week (18, 25 November, 2 December 2009)

Topic to be selected in the first class.

13th week (9 december 2009)

Final discussion, exam preparation and feedback session.