

**Philosophy 241: Pride and Self-Respect**  
**(5 Credits)**  
**Autumn Quarter 2009**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:20**  
**Savery Hall 168**

Instructor: Jeremy Fischer  
Office: Savery 384  
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-3:30; and by appointment  
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**Course Description and Objectives:**

Pride and self-respect (along with a cluster of related concepts such as dignity, self-esteem, and self-love) figure centrally in ethical life. In this class we will critically evaluate some of the many philosophical works that discuss these notions: works by classic authors like Aristotle, Augustine, Hume, Kant and Nietzsche, as well as by contemporary philosophers. Goals of the course include understanding the relations between these different concepts, as well as appreciating the different (and sometimes opposed) perspectives one might take towards them. Also, the course will enhance your ability to read and critically evaluate philosophical texts, and it will improve your philosophical writing skills.

**Texts:**

(1) (required) Course pack, available from Rams Copy Center (4144 University Way, N.E.).

**Grades:**

Grades will be determined on a 400-point scale. The take-home midterm counts for 60 points, the final counts for 100 points and participation in class is worth 50 points. There are four short essay assignments: the first is worth 20 points, the second is worth 30 points, the third is worth 40 points, and the last is worth 50 points. The remaining 50 points will be distributed in quizzes and short homework assignments. Short papers must be turned in on the assigned date. The midterm and final will consist of a short answer (identification) section and a set of essay questions among which you will have some choice.

You must receive 57.5% of the points to pass. Final grades are based on the following point system: 400-395 (4.), 394-390 (3.9), 389-385 (3.8) and so on to 234-230 (.7), the minimum passing grade. If, for example, you receive 400-395 points you are guaranteed a 4.0 for the course. You may in fact receive a 4.0 for a lower point total depending on how the points distribute themselves.

This course assumes that students have little or no background in philosophy. Thus, every effort will be made to acquaint students with philosophical thinking, argumentation, and presentation. Students are strongly advised to form study groups and raise questions.

**Student Obligations:**

1. Students with disabilities are advised to contact the UW Disabled Student Services at 206-8924/V, 206-543-8925/TTY, 206-616-8379/fax, or [uwdss@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdss@u.washington.edu). If you have a disability warranting accommodation, please schedule a meeting with me early in the quarter to make arrangements
2. UW Policy on Workload: University of Washington officially expects that, "In general, courses require two hours of homework for every hour of class. So, a 15-credit load should end up taking about 45 hours of time per week" ([www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/gettingstarted/basics\\_reg.php](http://www.washington.edu/uaa/gateway/advising/gettingstarted/basics_reg.php)). This might not be required every week in this class, but you should be clear that these are the University's expectations.
3. You are not to collaborate with any other person on any written work; it is cheating to submit work that is not yours. However you are strongly encouraged to study in groups.
4. Late assignments will not be accepted, and missed exams cannot be made-up except in the case of medical emergency.
5. Appeals of grades can be made in writing, and must give good reasons for reassessment. I will take seriously all serious appeals, and issue you a response in writing.

**PHIL 241: PRIDE AND SELF-RESPECT  
AUTUMN QUARTER 2009  
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

**PART I: SELF-RESPECT & SELF-ESTEEM**

Week 1: Introduction

Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>: **(1)** Lawrence Becker, 'Pride,' *Encyclopedia of Ethics*, Becker and Becker, eds., 1992; 1374-1377; **(2)** Immanuel Kant, *The Metaphysics of Morals*, Chapter II, Part III, 'On Servility'

Week 2: Evaluative Self-Respect and Recognition Self-Respect

Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>: Thomas E. Hill, 'Servility and Self-Respect,' from *Autonomy and Self-Respect* (1991)

Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>: Stephen Darwall, 'Two Kinds of Respect,' *Ethics*, Vol. 88, No. 1. (Oct., 1977), pp. 36-49

*Recommended:* David Sachs, 'How to Distinguish Self-Respect from Self-Esteem,' *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 10, No. 4. (Autumn, 1981), pp. 346-360

Week 3: Rawls and His Critics

Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: **(1)** John Rawls, 'Self-Respect, Excellences and Shame,' from *A Theory of Justice*; **(2)** John Deigh, 'Shame and Self-Esteem: A Critique,' *Ethics*, Vol. 93, No. 2. (Jan., 1983), pp. 225-245.

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: Stephen Massey, 'Is Self-Respect a Moral or a Psychological Concept?' *Ethics*, Vol. 93, No. 2. (Jan., 1983), pp. 246-261.

Week 4: Self-Respect or Self-Love?

Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup>: Robin Dillon, 'Toward a Feminist Conception of Self-Respect'

*Recommended:* **(1)** Christine Swanton, 'Expression in Self-Love,' from *Virtue Ethics: A Pluralistic View*; **(2)** Friedrich Nietzsche, Selections from *The Gay Science* (#290, #303, #341) and *Ecce Homo* (2.9)

Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: **(1)** Harry Frankfurt, 'The Dear Self,' from *Reasons of Love*

Week 5: Feeling Proud (I)

Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>: David Hume, 'Of Pride and Humility,' from *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Book II (1734): 181-213

Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>: Donald Davidson, 'Hume's Cognitive Theory of Pride,' *Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 73, No. 19 (Nov. 4, 1976)

*Recommended:* Tracy and Robbins, 'Putting the Self Into Self-Conscious Emotions: A Theoretical Model,' *Psychological Inquiry*, 2004, Vol. 15, No. 2

## Week 6: Feeling Proud (II)

Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 'Amour de soi and Amour Propre,' from *Emile* (1755): 211-230

*Recommended:* Gaines, et al., 'Feeling Good After Praise for a Successful Performance: The Importance of Social Comparison Information,' *Self and Identity*, 4: 373 – 389 (2005).

Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>: **Catch-Up Day/ Midterm Exam Review**

## **PART II: VIRTUES AND VICIES OF PRIDE**

### Week 7: Pridefulness (I)

Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: Aristotle, 'On Greatness of Soul,' from *Nicomachean Ethics*, IV.3

Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>: (1) Augustine, from *City of God*; (2) Aquinas, 'Question 162: Pride,' from *Summa Theologica*

*Recommended:* Dante, *Purgatory*, Cantos X-XII

### Week 8: Pridefulness (II)

Tuesday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>: David Hume, 'Of Greatness of Mind,' from *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Book III (1734): 378-384

Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>: Gabriele Taylor, 'Pride and Anger,' from *Deadly Vices* (2006): 70-91

### Week 9: Modesty

Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup>: (1) Julia Driver, 'Virtues of Ignorance,' *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 86, No. 7, (Jul. 1989), pp. 373-384; (2) G.F. Schueler, 'Why Modesty is a Virtue,' *Ethics* 107 (April 1997): 467-485

Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>: \*\*\***THANKSGIVING DAY**\*\*\*

## **PART III: BROADER TOPICS**

### Week 10: Pride and Society

Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>: Boxill, 'Self-Respect and Protest,' *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 6, No. 1, (Autumn, 1976), pp. 58-69

Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>: Richard Rorty, 'American National Pride: Whitman and Dewey,' from *Achieving Our Country* (1998), Martha Nussbaum, 'Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism,' from *For Love of Country* (1996)

### Week 11: Applications and Challenges

Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>: William Shakespeare, *Coriolanus* (1608)

Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Douglas Sirk, *All That Heaven Allows* (1955)

**\*\*\* FINAL EXAM: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>: 4:30-6:20 IN SAVERY 168 \*\*\***