Ethics Reading List/General Instructions for MA Exam

Instructions:

Questions on the first section of the exam will be drawn from the reading list as well as upper-level undergraduate courses in moral philosophy (Phil. 304, Phil. 420). Students should be familiar with the material on the reading list well in advance of sitting the MA Ethics exam, and they should be aware that each of the readings engages a number of distinct philosophical themes. Students should also be familiar with the material presented in Phil. 304 and are encouraged to take Phil. 420 before sitting the MA Ethics exam. If a student has not taken these courses, he or she may ask faculty who have recently taught courses in moral philosophy for their syllabi.

The exam will usually include a second section consisting of questions from recent graduate seminars relevant to the topic. Students are limited to answering no more than one question from this section. They are not, however, required to answer any questions from the second section – they may choose both of their questions from section one. Phil. 543 will be the main source for questions in the second section of the exam. However, candidates should be aware that questions may also be drawn from seminars in other areas of philosophy if they have covered material relevant to moral philosophy.

Copies of previous MA Ethics Exams are available in the department office. Candidates are encouraged to look at these questions. Each year, one faculty member is assigned to organize MA Ethics examinations. Students who have any questions related to the structure or content of the MA Ethics exam should consult the exam organizer.

Reading List:


Ayer, AJ. *Language, Truth and Logic*, (Chapter 6).


Hume, David. *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Sections I, II, V-VII (be sure not to confuse this with *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*).


Kant, Immanuel, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, (Chapters 1-3).


Mill, John Stuart, *Utilitarianism*, (Chapters 1, 2, and 4).


Moore, GE. *Principia Ethica*, (Chapter 1, Sections 1-15).


