Wrongdoing, Blame, Forgiveness, and Punishment

FIL 4300 høst 2016

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We are all familiar with the experience of wrongdoing: There are people whose actions cause harm for others. We may ourselves be the victims of such harm. How should we respond to the wrongdoing? Should we blame the wrongdoer? But he might not deserve to be blamed. Should we forgive the wrongdoer? But what does an act of forgiveness bring about and what are its normative constraints? Or should we punish the wrongdoer? But who has the right or the duty to punish whom for what? And what should the punishment be? In this course, we shall explore these and related questions.

The topic of the course is situated at the interface of normative moral theory and the philosophy of law. First, we shall look at various ways to conceptualize and understand wrongdoing. Then, we shall explore different ways of responding to wrongdoing and in particular blame, forgiveness, and punishment.

The course will be taught in English.

Participants are requested to attend the seminar meetings on a regular basis (they cannot miss more than 3 meetings) and to participate in the discussions. In the course of the semester, they will have to submit two short texts and a draft of the semester paper ('semesteroppgave'). Participants will get feedback to their texts in the course of the semester. At the end of the semester, they have to submit a revised semester paper. All texts can be submitted either in English or in Norwegian.

The point of my requesting short texts and a draft for the semester paper is to encourage participants to write on the topics we discuss and to learn to improve their writing with the help of the feedback they get.

Syllabus – With Background Reading

Session 1
Strawson, Peter F. (1962) 'Freedom and Resentment.' *Proceedings of the British Academy* 48 (1962), 1-25. FRONTER

Session 2
Watson, Gary (2004) 'Responsibility and the Limits of Evil: Variations on a Strawsonian Theme'. In Gary Watson (2004) *Agency and Answerability. Selected Essays*. Oxford:OUP. (chap. 8) FRONTER
Watson, Gary (2004) 'Two Faces of Responsibility'. In Gary Watson (2004) *Agency and Answerability. Selected Essays*. Oxford:OUP. (chap. 9) FRONTER

Session 3
Wallace, Jay (1994) 'Responsibility'. In Jay Wallace (1994) *Responsibility and the Moral Sentiments*. Harvard: Harvard University Press. (chap. 3) FRONTER
Wallace, Jay (1994) 'Emotions and Expectations'. In Jay Wallace (1994) *Responsibility and the Moral Sentiments*. Harvard: Harvard University Press. (chap. 2) FRONTER

Session 4
Fricker, Miranda (2016) 'What's the point of Blame? A Paradigm Based Explanation.' *Noûs* 50/1, 165-83. FRONTER

Session 5
Scanlon, T.M. (2013) 'Interpreting Blame.' D. Justin Coates and Neal A. Tognazzini (eds) *Blame: Its Nature and Norms*. Oxford: OUP, 84-99. FRONTER
Scanlon, T.M. (2008) 'Blame'. In T.M. Scanlon (2008) *Moral Dimensions. Permissibility, Meaning, Blame.* Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. (chap. 4) FRONTER

Session 6
Butler, Joseph (1867/2006): *Fifteen Sermons preached at The Rolls Chapel.* Elibron Classics. (Sermons VIII and IX). Available online at:
https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015020934660;view=1up;seq=12

Session 7
Griswold, Charles (2007) 'Forgiveness at its Best.' In Charles Griswold (2007) *Forgiveness. A Philosophical Exploration*. Cambridge: CUP. (chap. 2) – Get yourself a copy of the book.

Session 8
Hieronymi Pamela (2001) 'Articulating an Uncompromising Forgiveness.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 62/3, 529-555. FRONTER
David Novitz (1998) 'Forgiveness and Self-Respect.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 58/2, 299-315. FRONTER

Session 9
Kevin Zaragoza (2012) 'Forgiveness and Standing.' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* LXXXIV/3, 604-621. FRONTER
Holmgren, Margaret (1993) 'Forgiveness and the Intrinsic Value of Persons.' *American Philosophical Quarterly* 30/4, 341-352. FRONTER

Session 10
Fricke, Christel (2009) 'What We Cannot Do to Each Other – On Forgiveness and Moral Vulnerability.' In: Fricke, Christel (ed) (2011) *The Ethics of Forgiveness*. A Collection of Essays. The Hague: Routledge, 51-68. FRONTER
Shoemaker, David (2007) 'Moral Address, Moral Responsibility and the Boundaries of the Moral Community.' *Ethics* 118, 70-108. FRONTER

Session 11
Murphy, Jeffrey (1988) 'Forgiveness, Mercy and the Retributive Emotions.' *Criminal Justice Ethics* 7/2, 3-15. FRONTER

Session 12
Feinberg, Joel (2004/08) 'The Classic Debate.' and 'The Expressive Function of Punishment.' Both in: Feinberg, Joel, and Coleman, Jules (eds) (2004/2008) *Philosophy of Law*. Belmont: Thomson, 624-640.

Session 13

Morris, Herbert (2004/2008) 'Persons and Punishment.' In: Feinberg, Joel, and Coleman, Jules (eds) (2004/2008) *Philosophy of Law*. Belmont: Thomson, 641-655.

Session 14
Duff, R. A. (2006) 'Answering for Crime' *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* 106, 87-113.