

PHIL C3912, Section 003
Seminar: Wrongdoing, Responsibility, and Repair
Tuesdays 2:10-4:00
Spring 2011

Course Description:

This is a discussion-based seminar focusing on the ethics and moral psychology of responding to wrongdoing. How are relationships between persons damaged by wrongdoing? What is involved in holding a person responsible for a wrong done? Under what conditions is it reasonable to hold people responsible? Can a person be held responsible for things that are beyond her control? What is blame? Under what conditions (if any) do wrongdoers deserve blame? What is forgiveness? Under what conditions (if any) should we forgive? Are some wrongs (and wrongdoers) unforgivable? We will consider these and related questions in this seminar.

Most of our readings will be drawn from contemporary sources (e.g., P.F. Strawson, Christine Korsgaard, R. Jay Wallace, Margaret Urban Walker, Angela Smith, Pamela Hieronymi, and Charles Griswold). Course requirements will likely include a reading response paper, a term paper, and weekly CourseWorks posts.

This seminar is designed for junior and senior philosophy majors, and at least one previous course in ethics is recommended. A complete syllabus will be uploaded to CourseWorks in January.