

PHIL G9180
Topics in Ethics: Blame and Forgiveness
Wednesdays 2:10-4:00
Spring 2010

Course Description:

This seminar will focus on the moral importance of blame and forgiveness. In exploring the moral dimensions of blame and forgiveness, we will take up the following questions: what is blame? Do wrongdoers deserve blame? Under what conditions is it reasonable to blame someone? What is forgiveness? Is forgiveness conditional or unconditional? Are some wrongs (and wrongdoers) unforgivable? Our readings will be drawn primarily from contemporary sources (e.g., Strawson, Scanlon, Sher, Hieronymi, and Griswold), but we may also consider the work of a few historical figures to set up the problems and provide some background.