

Uppsala Universitet
10 February to 15 February 2014
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Syllabus

COURSE SUMMARY

This course considers what is under dispute in debates between non-naturalist and naturalist realists in metaethics. Or, more accurately, it aims to improve our understanding of what should be at dispute between them. The course offers a short tour through important literature in this debate and concludes with consideration of possible newer ways of understanding the significance of the distinction between non-natural and natural moral realism.

In addition to other thematic considerations, the course will offer a kind of hypothesis about different approaches to evaluating the prospects of various theories of moral properties. The hypothesis is that there are at least two distinct starting methodological starting points for developing a theory of the metaphysics of moral properties. One puts particular emphasis on moral concepts, the other on claims from the more general study of metaphysics and ontology. We will consider how the choice of starting point for metaethical theorising bears on the non-natural/natural distinction.

This is an intensive course, which takes place over the period of five days. While there will be some lecturing to provide background and context, this is a seminar that requires careful preparation and active participation. Due to the compressed nature of this course, it is highly advisable to read at least half of the assigned literature in advance. Please note that Tuesday 10/11 is a particularly intensive reading day.

Schedule and Readings

The reading listed under a particular day is the reading that we will discuss for that day. All but two of the readings below should be available from normal university library and online resources. The exceptions are the two readings for the last day, by Bader and Cuneo & Reisner. Please contact the instructor for copies of these papers.

	<i>Lectures</i>	<i>Seminars</i>
Måndag 9-11:	10:15-12:00, 2-K1072	14:15-16:00, 2-1025
	<i>Topic:</i> Mackie and the metaphysicians' legacy <i>Readings:</i> J.L. Mackie, <i>Inventing Right and Wrong</i> , introduction and ch. 1; John McDowell, 'Values and Secondary Qualities'.	
Tisdag 10/11:10:	10:15-12:00, 2-K1072	14:15-16:00, 2-1025
	<i>Topic:</i> Primary quality realism: reductive strategies. <i>Readings:</i> Frank Jackson, <i>From Metaphysics to Ethics</i> chs. 4 & 5; <i>Recommend Reading:</i> Graham Oddie, <i>Value, Reality, and Desire</i> ch. 6. <i>and Desire</i> ch. 6.	

- Onsdag 11/11:** **9:15-11:00, 2-1025** **14:15-16:00, 2-1022**
Topic: Primary quality realism: property fixing strategies
Reading: Peter Railton, 'Moral Realism'; Andrew Reisner, 'Fittingness, Value, and Trans-World Attitudes'.
- Torsdag 12/11:** **10:15-12:00, 2-K1072** **14:15-16:00, 2-1025**
Topic: Non-reductive naturalism and quietism
Readings: Richard Boyd, 'How to Be a Moral Realist'; Derek Parfit, *On What Matters Vol. II*, chp. 31.
Recommended Readings: David Brink, *Moral Realism and the Foundations of Ethics* ch 2.
- Fredag 13/11:** **10:15-12:00, 2-0023** **13:15-15:00, 2-10023**
Topic: New Approaches: Robust naturalism, metaphysics and epistemology:
Readings: Ralf Bader, 'Two Levels of Good-Making'; Terence Cuneo and Andrew Reisner, 'The Projectability Challenge to Moral Naturalism'