AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Moral philosophers have become increasingly concerned with virtue over the past few decades. Although Moral Philosophy has for centuries been primarily concerned with the appraisal of actions, and arguably still is, there has been a revived interest in the appraisal of agents. In this module, we'll be surveying and critically assessing some of the prominent contemporary accounts of virtue (and the arguments offered for them). Students are expected to acquire and demonstrate a thorough understanding of each of these accounts, and to assess their merits and defects. Particular emphasis will also be placed on further developing students' ability to provide, digest, and respond to philosophical arguments, textually and orally, in a manner that will improve their aptitude for research at the professional level.

ASSESSMENT

Journal Entries: For each reading assignment, students will submit a journal entry which summarizes and critiques its content. These will account for 45% of each student's course grade.

Term Paper: Each student will submit a term paper which advances a single thesis (approved in advance by the instructor) concerning some aspect, position, or argument of/from one or more of the accounts we examine. These will be submitted at the end of the semester, and will account for 40% of each student's course grade.

Class Participation: Each student will be expected to contribute (verbally) to each class discussion, so as to demonstrate their understanding of the material, their ability to clearly communicate their thoughts, as well as their ability to digest and respond to others' observations. This component will account for 15% of each student’s course grade.