

Agency and Responsibility

Sommersemester 2013

Tuesdays 12:15-13:45

Michael Madary

madary@uni-mainz.de

www.michaelmadary.com

Philosophicum Raum 00-517

Human interaction involves holding each other responsible. It is difficult to overstate the importance of responsibility, both moral and legal, for society. In this course we will investigate questions surrounding moral responsibility. We will consider whether or not we are truly capable of being morally responsible, and what might be involved in such a capability. Many have thought that moral responsibility involves being in control of one's actions. We will also explore philosophical issues surrounding the sense of agency along with illusions of control.

Introduction

16 April

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* III 1-5

Hume, "Of Liberty and Necessity"

"Moral Responsibility" Eshleman (2009) *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (SEP)

URL = <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-responsibility/>

The Reactive Attitudes

23 April

"Freedom and Resentment" P. F. Strawson

Evil and Luck

30 April

"Responsibility and the Limits of Evil: Variations on a Strawsonian Theme" G. Watson

"The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility" G. Strawson

The Real Self

7 May

"Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" H. Frankfurt

"Free Agency" G. Watson

Guidance Control

Responsibility and Control (selections) J. M. Fischer and M. Ravizza

14 May

The Manipulation Argument

Living Without Free Will (selections) D. Pereboom

"A Hard-line Reply to Pereboom's Four-Case Manipulation Argument" M. McKenna

"A Hard-line Reply to the Multiple-Case Manipulation Argument" D. Pereboom

21 May

Conscious Attitudes I

"How We Know Our Own Minds: The Relationship Between Mindreading and Metacognition" P. Carruthers

"Moral Responsibility and Consciousness" M. King and P. Carruthers

28 May

Conscious Attitudes II

"Consciousness, Implicit Attitudes and Moral Responsibility" N. Levy

"The Importance of Awareness" N. Levy

4 June

Action I

Intention (selections) G. E. M. Anscombe

11 June

Action II

"Actions, Reasons, and Causes" D. Davidson

"Agency" D. Davidson

"Intending" D. Davidson

18 June

The Illusion of Control I

"Unconscious Cerebral Initiative and the Role of Conscious Will in Voluntary Action" B. Libet

"Intentional inhibition: how the "veto-area" exerts control" S. Kühn, P. Haggard, and M. Brass

25 June

The Illusion of Control II

"Precis of *The Illusion of Conscious Will*" D. Wegner

2 July

Sense of Agency

"The Sense of Agency" T. Bayne

"The Sense of Control and the Sense of Agency" E. Pacherie

9 July

Sense of Mental Agency

"Mental Action and Self-Awareness" C. Peacocke

"Is there a Sense of Agency for Thought?" J. Proust

16 July