

**2006-2007 Executive Precepts Program**  
(Philadelphia, Princeton, New York City, and Washington D.C.)

Sponsored by the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions  
Princeton University

**Varieties of Ethical Reasoning  
and Contemporary Public Policy Debates**

**Reading List**

**I. Ancient Ethical Reasoning: Aristotle and Early Christianity**

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethic*, Books I- II, pp.950-963  
The Sayings of Jesus, selections from *The Synoptic Gospels*  
Huston Smith, "Christianity," from *The World's Religions*, pp.301-319  
Reinhold Niebuhr, "The Ethic of Jesus," from *An Interpretation of Christian Ethics*, pp.37-61  
Ludwig von Mises, "The Gospels as a source of Christian Ethics," from *Socialism: An Economic and Social Analysis*, pp.411-423

**II. Aquinas and Kant**

Thomas Aquinas, *The Summa Against the Gentiles*, and *The Treatise on Law*, pp.44-59  
Immanuel Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp.9-22  
Frederick Copeston, "Kant: Morality and Religion," from *History of Philosophy*, Vol. 6, pp.308-348

**III. Utilitarianism: Bentham and Mill**

Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Chapter I, pp.791-805  
John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapter II, pp.406-436  
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, pp.955-1023  
John Stuart Mill, "Remarks on Bentham's Philosophy," from *Utilitarianism*, pp.429-445"

#### **IV. More Recent Ethical Theory: Rawls, Nozick, Lasch, George**

John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical"

Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice," from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp.137-150

Christopher Lasch, "The Communitarian Critique of Liberalism," from Charles H. Reynolds and Ralph V. Norman, eds., *Community in America*, pp.60-76

Robert P. George, "Liberal Political Theory and the Culture of Death," from *The Clash of Orthodoxies*, pp.39-56

#### **V. War, Peace and the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb**

Michael S. Lyons, "The Collapse of Japan," from *World War II: A Short History*, pp.314-319

Martin Sherwin, "The Bomb, the War, and the Russians," from *A World Destroyed: The Atomic Bomb and the Grand Alliance*, pp.15-25

Michael Waizer, "Supreme Emergency," from *Just And Unjust Wars*, pp.251-268

Henry Stimson, "The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb"

#### **VI. Gay Rights / Gay Marriage**

Robert P. George, "Same Sex Marriage and Moral Neutrality," from *The Clash of Orthodoxies*, pp.75-89

Andrew Sullivan, "The Politics of Homosexuality," from *The New Republic*, Vol. 208, Issue 19, pp.24-37

Dennis Prager, "Judaism's Sexual Revolution: Why Judaism and then Christianity Rejected Homosexuality"

Norman Podhoretz, "How the Gay-Rights Movement Won," from *Commentary*, Nov. 1996, pp.32-41

Stephen Macedo, "Homosexuality and the Conservative Mind," from Wardle, Strasser, Duncan, and Coolidge, eds., *Marriage and Same Sex Unions*, pp.97-111

George Gilder, "Cruising," from *Men and Marriage*, pp.69-77

#### **VII. Capital Punishment**

Immanuel Kant, "The Right of Punishment and the Right of Pardon," from *The Metaphysical Element in the Theory of Right*, pp.154-159

Albert Camus, selections from *Reflections on the Guillotine*, pp.218-234

Ernest van den Haag, "The Ultimate Punishment: A Defense"

Jack Greenberg, "Against the American System of Capital Punishment"

Jeff Minis, "Capital Punishment: Drawing the Line between Doctrine and Opinion"

John Stuart Mill, "Speech in Favor of Capital Punishment"

Avery Dulles, "Catholicism and Capital Punishment"

David Trosch, "God's Justice in Relation to Capital Punishment"

## **VIII. Affirmative Action**

Derek Bok, "Admitting Success"

Charles Krauthammer, "Why We Need Race Consciousness"

Harvey Mansfield, "The Underhandedness of Affirmative Action"

Robert Drinan, "Affirmative Action Under Attack"

Lee Nisbet, "Affirmative Action: A Liberal Program?"

Paul Spickard, "Why I Believe in Affirmative Action"

Russell Nieli, "Ethnic Tribalism and Human Personhood"

Randall Kennedy, "Persuasion and Distrust"

## **IX. Abortion**

Robert P. George, "God's Reasons," from *The Clash of Orthodoxies*, pp.63-74

Richard Stith, "Roe v. Reason"

Judith Jarvis Thompson, "A Defense of Abortion," from *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 1, No. 1, pp.47-58

Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion," from *The Ethics of Abortion*, pp.226-233

Naomi Wolf, "Our Bodies, Our Souls," from *The New Republic* (Oct. 16, 1995), Vol. 213, Issue 16, pp.26-35.