

Weakness of Will Syllabus

(I) Overview of the topic. (1/6)

Lobel, Arnold. 1979: "Cookies," in his *Frog and Toad Together*. (New York: Harper Collins.)

(II) A VERY selective historical primer: (1/13) ([Jacob and Pat](#))

***Plato**, *Protagoras*, 352a1- 358d4

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* VII 1-10 (esp. chs. 3, 6, 8, 10)

Augustine, *Confessions* VIII.5, 8-12

Aquinas, *Summa Theologica* II.II.155, 156 (esp. Article 3 of 155 and Article 2 of 156)

Descartes, *The Passions of the Soul* book I (esp. chs. 18, 45-49)

(III) The "new problem" of weakness of the will (1/20) ([Matt and Bodhi](#))

***Davidson**, Donald. 1980: "How is Weakness of the Will Possible?" in Donald Davidson, *Actions and Events*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

Bratman, Michael. 1979: "Practical Reasoning and Weakness of the Will," *Noûs* 13. (Use JSTOR)

Davidson, Donald. 1980: "Intending" in Donald Davidson, *Actions and Events*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press.)

Optional Readings:

Jackson, Frank. 1984: "Weakness of Will," *Mind* vol. 93, no. 369.

Cordner, Christopher. 1985: "Jackson on Weakness of the Will." *Mind* vol. 94, no. 374.

Mele, Alfred. 1987: *Irrationality*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press.) (ch. 3)

(IV) How Free Does Akrasia Need to be? (1/27) ([Karen and Steve](#))

Santas, Gerasimos. 1966: "Plato's Protagoras and Explanations of Weakness." *Philosophical Review* vol. 75, no. 1. (USE JSTOR)

***Watson**, Gary. 1977: "Skepticism About Weakness of Will,"

Philosophical Review, vol. 86, no. 3. (USE JSTOR)

Smith, Michael. 2003: "Rational Capacities" in Sarah Stroud and Christine Tappolet, eds., *Weakness of Will and Varieties of Practical Irrationality*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press.) (WILL POST UNDER "COURSE DOCUMENTS")

Optional:

Wallace, R.J. . 2001: "Normativity and Commitment," *Philosopher's Imprint* 1 <www.philosopher'simprint.org>

Watson, Gary. "The Work of the Will" in Stroud and Tappolet, eds., *Weakness of Will and Practical Irrationality* (Oxford:Oxford University Press).

(V) Desire as motive: Humeans and dispositional theories of desire.
(2/3) ([Zack and Jaime](#))

***Smith**, Michael. 1987: "The Humean Theory of Motivation," *Mind* vol. 96, no. 381.

***Quinn**, Warren. 1993: "Putting Rationality in its Place," in his *Morality and Action* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.)

Optional:

Pettit, Philip. 1987: "Humeans, Anti-Humeans, and Motivation," *Mind*, vol. 96, no. 384.

Brandt, Richard and **Kim**, Jaegwon . 1963: "Wants as Explanations of Actions", *The Journal of Philosophy* vol. 60, no. 15.

(VI) Reason as motive: What is the structure of practical reason?
(2/10) ([Charles and Nadav](#))

***Korsgaard**, Christine. 1997: "The Normativity of Instrumental Reason" in G. Cullity and B. Gaut, eds., *Ethics and Practical Reason* (Oxford:Oxford University Press).

Velleman, J. David. 1996: "The Possibility of practical reason," *Ethics* vol.106, no. 4.

Optional:

Wedgewood, Ralph. 2003: "Choosing Rationally and Choosing Correctly" in Stroud and Tappolet, eds., *Weakness of Will and Practical Irrationality* (Oxford:Oxford University Press).

Hieronymi, P. 2009: "The Will as Reason," *Philosophical Perspectives* 23 (1):201-220.

(VII) Davidson, revisited: Dividing the mind (2/17) ([Adam and Nir](#))

***Davidson**, D. 1982: "Paradoxes of Irrationality" in Richard Wollheim and James Hopkins (eds.), *Philosophical Essays on Freud*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.)

Davidson, D. 1985: "Deception and Division," in E. Lepore and B. McLaughlin (eds.), *Actions and Events: Perspectives on the Philosophy of Donald Davidson*. (New York: Blackwell.)

Freud, Sigmund. 1968: "Formulations on the Two Principles of Mental Functioning" in *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. vol. 12. (trans. James Strachey, London: The Hogarth Press.)

Optional: **Pears**, D.F. 1982: "Motivated Irrationality I." *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* Supp. vol. 56.

Pugmire, David. 1982: "Motivated Irrationality II," *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* Supp. vol. 56.

Sartre, Jean-Paul. 1956: *Being and Nothingness*. (New York, NY: Washington Square Press.) (Part I ch. 2)

(VIII) Remapping the territory: Wherein lies the Irrationality of Weak-willed action? (2/24) ([Adam and Nic](#))

***Holton**, R. 1999 "Intention and Weakness of will," *Journal of Philosophy* 96 (5).

Buss, S. 1997 "Weakness of Will," *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 78 (1):13-44.

Callard, A. 2007 "The Weaker Reason." (unpublished)

Optional:

McIntyre, A. 2006, "What Is Wrong With Weakness of Will?,"

Journal of Philosophy **103**: 284-311.

Holton, R., 2003, "How is Strength of Will Possible?," in Stroud and Tappolet 2003, pp. 39-67.

(?) Bratman, B . 2000: "Reflection, Planning and Temporally Extended Agency," *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 109, no. 1.

(IX) Can weakness of will be good? Can it perhaps even be rational?

(3/3) ([Will and Raff](#))

***Bennett**, Jonathan. 1974: "The Conscience of Huckleberry Finn." *Philosophy* 49.

Arpaly, Nomy. 2000: "On Acting Rationally Against One's Best Judgment." *Ethics* vol. 110, no. 3.

Jones, Karen. 2003: "Emotion, Weakness of Will and the Normative Conception of agency" in A. Hatzimoysis (ed.) *Philosophy and the Emotions*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.)

(X) A Cure For Incontinence? The Quest for an Authoritative point of view (3/10) ([Justin and Gerard](#))

Sorensen, Roy. 1997: "Advertisement for a Cure for Incontinence," *Mind* vol. 106, no. 743.

Bovens, L. 1999: "The Two Faces of Akratics Anonymous," *Analysis* vol. 59, no. 264.

Gendler, T. (1998). "Continenence on the Cheap," *Mind* 107 (428):821.

***De Sousa**, R. "On *Sui Generis* Emotional Irrationality" in Stroud and Tappolet, eds., *Weakness of Will and Practical Irrationality* (Oxford:Oxford University Press).