Weakness of Will Syllabus

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


(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)


Optional Readings:


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


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


Optional:

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

Optional:

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


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


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


(IX) Can weakness of will be good? Can it perhaps even be rational? (3/3) (Will and Raff)


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


