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People disagree about what's good, bad, right, wrong, valuable, worthless. They disagree about how a person should live and about how she should treat other persons. Some of these disagreements are very old and very resilient. They are not readily explained or resolved by pointing to errors of reasoning committed by people on one side of a question. Or at least not by calling attention to mistakes that I can show to be mistaken without presupposing that my own side of a debate is getting things right.

In the first six weeks of this class we'll ask whether disagreement of this kind should undermine moral conviction. Suppose that, for some moral p , I believe that p . Can the fact that you believe that *Not p* make it true of me that I shouldn't believe that p ?

In the final four weeks we'll turn to disagreement in politics. Can the fact that you believe that *Not p* make it true of me that, when you and I are setting terms for our shared social life, I should not insist on terms such that the best moral argument for establishing them presupposes that p ?

jan 3	Henry Sidgwick, from <i>Methods of ethics</i>
jan 5	Peter van Inwagen, Ralph Wedgwood, excerpts on disagreement
jan 10	Allan Gibbard, from <i>Wise choices, apt feelings</i>
jan 12	Tyler Burge, from "Content preservation"
jan 19	more Burge
jan 24	Richard Feldman, "Epistemological puzzles about disagreement"
jan 26	Kieran Setiya, "Does moral theory corrupt youth?"
jan 31	Sharon Street, "Objectivity and truth: you'd better rethink it"
feb 2	more Street
feb 7	A. J. Julius, "We should agree"
feb 9	catch-up
feb 14	Thomas Nagel, "Moral conflict and political legitimacy"
feb 16	more Nagel
feb 23	John Rawls, "The idea of an overlapping consensus"
feb 28	Joseph Raz, "Disagreement in politics"
march 2	David Estlund, "The insularity of the reasonable"
march 7	Andrew Williams, "The alleged incompleteness of public reason"
march 9	catch-up

The written work for the course is three five-page papers, each worth a third of your grade, and due on february 7, march 2, and march 18.