

**FINO PhD Program in Philosophy**  
**Ethics and Politics Curriculum**  
**A.Y. 2022-2023**

*The course is open to all Curricula, all years of the FINO PhD program, but is mandatory for cycles 37 and 38 of the Ethics and Politics Curriculum*

**Title:** *Metaethics, Disagreement and Relativism*

**Teachers:** Luca Fonnesu, Federica Liveriero, Filippo Magni.

**Duration and Credits:** 10 hours, 5 credits

**Teaching period:** April 13-14, finalized schedule to be provided ASAP. The course will take place in two long sessions.

**Where:** University of Pavia, Department of Political and Social Sciences

The course will offer an investigation of the most important aspects of the metaethical domain. Moving from the framework of a semantical and/or ontological approach to the question of values and normativity, the discussion will concern the problem of ethical disagreement and two possible ways to face it such as constructivism and relativism.

The general framework of the metaethical discussion in the analytic tradition after Moore is supposed to be known by PhDs (otherwise, a general introduction is offered e.g. by D.O. Brink, 1989, *Moral Realism and the Foundations of Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, New York, Ch. 2).

**Requirements**

PhDs will have to attend all lectures, read the assigned bibliography and give a personal, active contribution to the discussion. First year PhDs may choose this course to write their annual essay.

**Mandatory Bibliography**

1. J.L. Mackie, 1977, *Ethics. Inventing right and wrong*, Penguin, Ch. 1 (a seminal subjectivist approach for contemporary discussion).
2. D. Enoch 2009, "How Is Moral Disagreement a Problem for Realism?", *The Journal of Ethics*, 13(1), pp. 15–50 (a refined rebut of antirealist positions that rely on the threat posed by moral disagreement to realism).
3. S. Street 2010, "What is Constructivism in Ethics and Metaethics?", *Philosophy Compass*, 5(5), pp. 363–384 (a comprehensive presentation of constructivism as a metaethical position).
4. J. D. Velleman 2015, *Foundations for Moral Relativism*, Open Book Publishers, Book in open access (cap. V) (a defense of relativism).