

## RESOURCES FOR KANT'S ETHICS

There are a *huge* number of books and articles written about all aspects of Kant's philosophy. This list is a small selection of them that I regard as particularly helpful for the purposes of our course.

*General philosophical resource:*

The **Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy** ([plato.stanford.edu](http://plato.stanford.edu)) is a fantastic on-line resource. It has articles on every major and minor philosopher, and often several articles on particular aspects of a major philosopher. For example there is a useful article, "Kant and Hume on Morality," by Lara Denis, the editor of our Kant book, and there are many articles on (different aspects of) Kant's philosophy.

*General work on Kant:*

Roger Scruton, Kant (in the "A Very Short Introduction" series at Oxford University Press, 2001). An excellent, reasonably accessible (but still pretty challenging) short-ish account of the entirety of Kant's philosophy, with most attention to the epistemology and metaphysics, an important backdrop to Kant's moral philosophy.

*Works on Kant's ethical writings:*

(Rawls and Guyer are described on the syllabus)

Roger J. Sullivan, Immanuel Kant's Moral Theory (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1989). Covers all of Kant's "critical" ethical writings, fairly accurately and somewhat accessibly. One downside purely from our course's point of view is that Sullivan often tries to synthesize what Kant is saying in all of these writings; he does not always try to differentiate what Kant says in the *Groundwork* specifically. Sometimes he does, sometimes he doesn't.

Roger J. Sullivan, An Introduction to Kant's Ethics (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2004). A very accessible, reasonably short introduction to Kant's "critical" ethical theory, focused mostly but not entirely on the *Groundwork*. A very useful book, but some of Sullivan's interpretations are questionable, so you have to read this with the original text and not always assume Sullivan has got it right.

Allen W. Wood, Kant's Ethical Thought (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999). Wood is perhaps the premier English-speaking interpreter of Kant's ethical views. Part I of this book is an interpretation of the *Groundwork*.

*Works by neo-Kantians:*

There has been an explosion of philosophical work in the past 30 years sympathetic to, drawing on, and interpreting Kant, by eminent moral philosophers. Each of the following is a collection of essays some of which interpret aspects of the *Groundwork*. Here are the most important of them:

Barbara Herman, The Practice of Moral Judgment (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993)

Christine Korsgaard, Creating the Kingdom of Ends (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1996).

Thomas E. Hill, Jr., Human Welfare and Moral Worth: Kantian Perspectives (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press/Clarendon Press, 2002)

O'Neill, Onora, Constructions of Reason: Explorations of Kant's Practical Philosophy (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1989)

[all 4 of these philosophers have essays in the Guyer collection]

*Kant's writings on ethics (in the "critical" period) besides the *Groundwork*:*

Critique of Practical Reason (1788)

Religion Within the Limits of Reason Alone (1793)

Metaphysics of Morals (1797)