

Teaching guide for *Nasty, Brutish, and Short*

This teaching guide is targeted at an introductory philosophy class which meets twice a week. The course is structured around 13 weeks, each corresponding to a different chapter of *Nasty, Brutish, and Short*. In the first session of the week, students will read one chapter of *NBS*, which introduces them to a philosophical concept: for example, moral rights, knowledge, or the metaphysics of race. In the second session of the week, students will engage with a text or piece of multimedia which provides a deeper dive into one aspect of that week's topic. For each week, there are several secondary assignments to choose from.

Week One: what is philosophy? How are children philosophers?

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (introduction)
- [What do babies think](#), Alison Gopnik, TED Talk (2012)
- [Unfinished adults and defective children: on the nature and value of childhood](#), Anca Gheaus, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (2015).
- [How is this paper philosophy](#), Kristie Dotson, *Comparative Philosophy* (2012)
- [Philosophy Toolkit](#), Alan Hajek, *Aeon* (2017)

Week Two: What are rights? How do they function?

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter One)
- [Killing, Letting Die, and the Trolley Problem](#), Judith Jarvis Thomson, *The Monist* (1979)
- [The Trolley Problem](#), Judith Jarvis Thomson, *The Yale Law Journal* (1985)
- [The Normative Insignificance of Neuroscience](#), Selim Berker, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (2009)
- [Directed Duties](#), Simon May, *Philosophy Compass* (2015)
- [The Nature of Rights](#), Leif Wenar, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (2005)
- Rights, Jonathon Quong, [Routledge Companion to Social and Political Philosophy](#), Fred D'Agostino and Gerald Gaus, eds. 618-628 (2013).
- "What Rights Require, §3.2," from *Rewriting Rights*, Renee Jorgensen (forthcoming)
- [Rejecting Rights](#), Sonu Bedi (2009)
- "Rights and Losses", from [States of Injury](#), Wendy Brown (1995)

Week Three: Revenge – when is it acceptable, if ever?

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 2)
- [There is no emotion we ought to think about harder than anger](#), Martha Nussbaum, *Aeon* (2016); relatedly, [Anger and Resentment](#), Chapter 2, Martha Nussbaum, 2016.
- ["A Philosopher's Defense of Anger,"](#) *The New Yorker* (2021); relatedly, [The Case for Rage](#), esp Chapters 1-2, Myisha Cherry.
- ["Revenge isn't always sweet, but it can be beautiful,"](#) Stephen Yoshimura and Susan Boon, *The Conversation* (2017).

Week Four: Punishment

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 3)
- *Minority Report*, film (2002)
- [The expressive function of punishment](#), Joel Feinberg, *The Monist* (1965)
- [The moral education theory of punishment](#), Jean Hampton, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (1984)
- [Justice and Retribution](#), Hi-Phi Nation (2020) (podcast)
- [The Idea of Prison Abolition](#), Tommie Shelby (2022)

Week Five: Authority

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 4)
- *Crito*, Plato
- *In Defense of Anarchism* (Part One), R.P. Wolff (1970)
- [Membership, fair play, and political obligation](#), Richard Dagger, *Political Studies*, (2000)
- *Dark Ghettos*, Tommie Shelby (2016)
- [Whose burden to bear? Privilege, lawbreaking, and race](#), Ekoh Yankah, *Criminal Law and Philosophy* (2022)
- [Fuck Work](#), James Livingston, *Aeon* (2016)
- Private Government (selections), Elizabeth Anderson

Week Six: Language

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 5)
- [Naughty Words](#), Rebecca Roache, *Aeon* (2016)
- [Slurs and Ideology](#), Eric Swanson (forthcoming)
- [Ideology, Generics, and the Common Ground](#), Sally Haslanger, *Feminist Metaphysics* (ed. Witt) (2011)
- [The Pragmatics of Slurs](#), Renee Jorgensen, *Nous* (2017)
- [Political Etiquette](#), Ronni Sadovsky, *Philosophical Studies* (2023)
- [The Etiquette of Equality](#), Benjamin Eidelson, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* (2023)
- [“No Offense,”](#) Hi-Phi Podcast

Week Seven: Sex, Gender, and Sports

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 6)
- “Interview with Veronica Ivy,” [The Daily Show](#)
- [“On the definition of ‘woman’ in the sport context,”](#) in *Values in Sport*, Angela Schneider (2000)
- [“But Mom, Crop-tops are cute!” Social Knowledge, Social Structure and Ideology Critique,](#) Sally Haslanger, *Philosophical Issues* (2007)
- [The Metaphysics of Gender](#), Elizabeth Barnes
- [“Be A Man,”](#) Hi-Phi Podcast
- [Who is a sportswoman?](#) Silvia Camporesi, *Aeon* (2017)
- [Should I let my two-year old daughter wear pink?](#), Liz Camp, *Aeon* (2015)

Week Eight: Race

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 7)
- [“The Case for Reparations,”](#) Ta-Nehisi Coates, *The Atlantic* (2014)
- Selections from *Reconsidering Reparations*, Olufemi Taiwo
- Theorizing Racial Justice, Charles Mills ([Youtube](#); [Transcript](#)) (2020)
- [Being Responsible, Taking Responsibility, and Penumbral Agency](#), in *Luck, Value, and Commitment, Themes from the Ethics of Bernard Williams* (ed. Heuer and Lang), David Enoch (2015)
- [Family, Ancestry, Self: What is the Moral Significance of Biological Ties?](#), Sally Haslanger, *Adoption and Culture* (2009)
- [But what are you really? The metaphysics of race](#), in *Blackness Visible*, Charles Mills (1998)

Week Nine: Knowledge

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 8)
- [Is justified true belief knowledge](#), Edmund Gettier, *Analysis* (1963)
- [The Analysis of Knowledge](#), Jonathan Ichikawa, *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- [The Pragmatic Dimension of Knowledge](#), Fred Dretske, *Philosophical Studies* (1981)
- [Fake News and Partisan Epistemology](#), Regina Rini, *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal* (2016)
- [Gettier and Factivity in Indo-Tibetan Philosophy](#), Jonathon Stoltz, *The Philosophical Quarterly* (2007).
- [Radical Externalism](#), Amia Srinivasan, *The Philosophical Review* (2020)

Week Ten: Truth

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 9)
- [Speech Matters](#) (Chapter 1), Seana Shiffrin (2014)
- [Sex, Lies, and Consent](#), Tom Dougherty, *Ethics* (2013)
- [No Offense](#), Hi-Phi Nation Podcast
- [Echo Chambers and Epistemic Bubbles](#), C. Thi Nguyen, *Episteme* (2018)
- *Rashomon* (1950) (film)

Week Eleven: Mind

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 10)
- [What’s so bad about living in the Matrix](#), James Pryor (2005)
- [Descartes’ Myth](#), Gilbert Ryle (1949)
- [What experience teaches](#), David Lewis (1988)
- [Conscious Machines](#), Philosophy Talk (podcast/radio show)
- [Into Thin Air: Avicenna on the Soul](#), History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps (podcast)
- *Zhuangzi*, Chps 2 and 17 (the stories of the butterfly and the happy fish)
- *Her* (2013) (film)

Week Twelve: Infinity

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 11)
- A Trip to Infinity (documentary, Netflix)
- [The Infinite Hotel Paradox](#), Ted-Ed (youtube)
- [The Absurd](#), Thomas Nagel, *The Journal of Philosophy* (1971)
- [Anthropic Explanations in Cosmology](#), Jesus Mosterin
- *Everything, Everywhere, All At Once* (film)

Week Thirteen: God

- *Nasty, Brutish, and Short* (Chapter 12)
- [“Believers without Belief,”](#) Phillip Goff, *Times Literary Supplement* (2019)
- [When is Faith Rational?](#), Lara Buchak
- [Evil for Freedom’s Sake?](#) David Lewis (1993)
- [The Bhāgavata Purāna and the Problem of Evil](#), Akshay Gupta, *Philosophy East and West* (2023)
- Hell is the Absence of God, Ted Chiang (Science Fiction Novella)
- [Creed and Credences](#), Hi-Phi Nation Podcast