

PHL 308
ELEMENTARY
ETHICS

DR. JEFF JOHNSON
LECTURE TWENTY-SIX

THIS LAST MODULE

- Two books that changed my thinking
 - *The Evolution of Cooperation*
 - *The Origins of Virtue*
- Scholarly treatments of the social contract
- Biologically based moral realism
- My conference paper

NORMATIVE JUSTIFICATION OF THE STATE

- Anarchist's challenge
- State as morally justified
- Nature of moral justification

RELIGION AND ETHICAL OBJECTIVITY

- Presupposition of western theism
- Divine command theory
- *Euthyphro* dilemma
 - Does God's command make it right?
 - Commands now seem arbitrary
 - Does God command because it's right?
 - Ethical standard independent of God
- My answer
- Natural law

CLASSICAL NATURAL LAW

- Human law versus natural law
- Human nature
- God's law
 - God is omnipotent and omniscient
 - God is morally perfect
- *Euthyphro* dilemma, again
- Must we assume the existence of God?
- Theistic consensus
- Objective moral truth

ETHICAL SKEPTICISM

- Objective moral truth?
- Mackie's concerns
 - Ontological queerness
 - Epistemological queerness
 - Psychological queerness
 - Ethical relativity
- Moral realism