

The One and the Many: Two paths through moral dilemmas IRP, Spring 2015, Syllabus

Coordinators: Jan Adler and Steve Cole

Week 1- Introduction to Berlin's concept of value pluralism and Dworkin's project of developing an objective approach to moral and legal questions.

Week 2 , 3 and 4- Close reading of dense NYRB essays by Dworkin that develop Dworkin's ideas that were introduced in week 1 and excerpts from Berlin's *Vico* and *Cultural History* for the contrasting approach.

Week 5 and 6 – A close reading of the different approaches to liberty as developed in Berlin's *Two Concepts of Liberty* and Dworkin's chapter *Liberty in Justice For Hedgehogs*.

Week 7- A reading from Richard Posner to present the practical viewpoint for deciding legal questions.

Week 8 and 9- The attempts to answer questions about moral truths using thought experiments like the trolley and the fat man and brain science research. Cass Sunstein essay from NYRB and Thomas Nagel essay from *New Republic*.

Week 10- Selling body parts discussion. Michael Sandel article from the *Atlantic* *Is Everything for Sale*

Week 11- Abortion. *Are There Limits to Liberalism*, Michael Walzer and Stanley Fish *Is Religion Special* both from Berlin coursepack.

Week 12- Implications for international relations.