

Meta-Ethics Debates

We are going to have in-class debates on four topics in meta-ethics. This document briefly describes what the debates will involve.

- We will have four debates in total, two on Monday, September 29 and two on Wednesday, October 1. The questions that will be debated are, in order: (1) Are moral claims the kind of things that can be true or false? (2) Is the truth of moral claims relative to a society? (3) Is it in our best interests to be moral? (4) Are there any general moral rules? There are two groups assigned to each question.
- Part of Friday, September 26, will be devoted to allowing your group to prepare for your debate.
- Here is how the debate will be structured. Right before the debate begins, I will flip a coin to decide which group will take which side and which group starts. Thus, your group must be prepared to argue each side of the issue. First, each group will have 4 minutes to make opening arguments. Then there will be a 2 minute break, which will give groups time to adjust their strategy. Then each group will have 3 minutes to make a rebuttal. Then there will be another 2 minute break. Then each group will have 3 minutes to make closing remarks.