

The Ethics of Star Trek
OLLI Spring 2024
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For more than 60 years, Star Trek has fascinated millions of fans and gains new fans daily. But the shows are more than entertainment, the complex moral dilemmas present a way of looking at ourselves - past, present and future. This class will explore the ethics of the first three series through the eyes of the world's great philosophers. Questions about good vs evil, right vs wrong, power and corruption will be explored. Buckle your seat belt and let's go where no man has gone before.

Class 1 – Introduction to the Ethics of Star Trek

Class 2 – Cultural Relativism “The Cost of Living” TNG S5 E20

Class 3 – Are Religion and Ethics the Same? “Accession” DS9 S4 E17

Class 4 – Good versus Evil “Skin of Evil” TNG S1 E23

Class 5 – Plato’s Allegory of the Cave “For the World is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky” TOS S3 E8

Class 6 – Plato’s Theory of Justice and the Soul “Plato’s Stepchildren” TOS S3 E10

Class 7 – Aristotle and Virtue “The Enemy Within” TOS S1 E5

Class 8 – Aristotle and Equity “Justice” TNG S1 E8

Class 9 – Hedonism versus Stoicism “Let He Who is Without Sin” DS9 S5 E7

Class 10 – Kierkegaard’s Christian Ethics “And the Children Shall Lead” TOS S3 E4

Class 11 – Thomas Hobbes’ Basic Human Nature and Altruism “The Nagus” DS9 S1 E11

*** The content is subject to change