

PHIL 162 Contemporary Moral Issues

Syllabus
Fall 2013
Tu. & Th. 3:30-4:50 pm
Sequoyah Hall
Room 148

Andy Lamey
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Office: HSS 8088
Office Hours: Mon & Wed. 10:00-11:00 am

Content

This course consists of an in-depth examination of three areas of contemporary moral controversy. They concern the ethics of border control, issues related to autonomy in bioethics and the marriage debate. We will begin with a brief introduction to moral theory as well as an examination of an argument by Will Kymlicka which has been influential across all three of our areas of inquiry. The course is designed to be accessible to students with minimal background in philosophy.

Assessment

Assessment for the class will consist of:

A short essay (1,00 words) worth 15 percent of the final mark, due Mon. Nov. 4*
A major essay (2000 words) worth 30 percent of the final mark, due Mon. Nov. 25
An exam worth 40 percent of final mark
Class participation worth 15 percent of the final mark

*Note that students can hand in the short essay any time before the due date if they prefer.

Readings and Schedule

All of the required readings are contained in the course reader prepared by Soft Reserves.

Thurs. Sept 26 & Tues. Oct. 1: Intro to Moral Theory

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2001), Chapter Two.

Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971), sections Three, 11, 15, 24 and 26.

Thurs. Oct. 3 & Tues. Oct. 8: Multiculturalism

Kymlicka, Will. *Liberalism, Community and Culture* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989), Chapters Eight and Nine.

Okin, Susan Moller. "Is Multiculturalism Bad For Women?," in *Is Multiculturalism Bad For Women?*, J. Cohen, M. Howard, M. Nussbaum, (eds.), (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999).

Thurs. Oct. 10 & Tues. Oct. 15: Migration I

Carens, Joseph H. "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders." *The Review of Politics* (1987): 251-273.

Huemer, Michael. "Is There a Right to Immigrate?" *Social Theory and Practice* 36.3 (2010): 429-461.

Thurs. Oct. 17 & Tues. Oct. 22: Migration II

Wellman, Christopher Heath. "Immigration and Freedom of Association." *Ethics* 119.1 (2008): 109-141.

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Blake, Michael. "Immigration, Jurisdiction, and Exclusion." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 41.2 (2013): 103-130.

Thurs. Oct. 24 & Oct. 29: Migration III

Heath, Joseph. "Immigration, Multiculturalism, and the Social Contract." *Canadian Journal of Law & Jurisprudence* 10 (1997): 343.

Carens, Joseph. "The Case for Amnesty." *Boston Review* 34.5-6 (2009): 7-11.

Monday Nov 4: Short Essay Due 5:00 pm

Thurs. Oct. 31 & Tues. Nov. 5: Bioethics I

Sparrow, Robert. "Defending Deaf Culture: The Case of Cochlear Implants." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 13.2 (2005): 135-152.

Fahmy, Melissa Seymour. "On the Supposed Moral Harm of Selecting for Deafness." *Bioethics* 25.3 (2011): 128-136.

Thurs. Nov. 7 & Tues. Nov. 12: Bioethics II

Agar, Nicholas. "Liberal Eugenics." *Public Affairs Quarterly* 12.2 (1998): 137- 155.

Sparrow, Robert. "Liberalism and Eugenics." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 89.3 (2011): 499-517.

Thurs. Nov. 14 & Tues. Nov. 19: Bioethics III

Bayne, Tim, and Neil Levy. "Amputees by Choice: Body Integrity Identity Disorder and the Ethics of Amputation." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 22.1 (2005): 75-86.

Müller, Sabine. "Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID)—Is the Amputation of Healthy Limbs Ethically Justified?" *The American Journal of Bioethics* 9.1 (2009): 36-43.

Major Essay due Monday Nov 25 5:00 pm

Thurs. Nov. 21 & Tues. Nov. 26: Marriage I

Corvino, John. "Homosexuality and the PIB Argument." *Ethics* 115.3 (2005): 501-534.

Girgis, Sherif, Robert George, and Ryan Anderson. "What is Marriage?" *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* 34.1 (2010): 245-287.

Thurs. Nov. 28 Thanksgiving No Class

Tues. Dec 3 & Thurs. Dec 5: Marriage II

Strauss, Gregg. "Is Polygamy Inherently Unequal?" *Ethics* 122.3 (2012): 516- 544.

Brake, Elizabeth. "Minimal Marriage: What Political Liberalism Implies for Marriage Law." *Ethics* 120.2 (2010): 302-337.

Week of Dec. 9-14: Final exam

General Information

Office Hours

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours between 10:00-11:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. My skype ID is andy_lamey. I am also available by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Submission

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

Extensions

I am happy to grant extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment in question is due (email is fine). Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note

that if you receive an extension your paper may be graded and returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Late Work

For all short assignments (1,000 words or less), if your work is submitted late without an extension, your mark will be capped at a bare pass (50%). You will probably only receive minimal feedback on your work. Short assignments submitted more than 7 days late without an extension cannot be accepted at all without a medical certificate or similar documentation.

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive written or other feedback.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will generally be available on TED an hour before class.

Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class. This class may use clickers.

Waitlist

Unenrolled students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.