

Phil 13 Introduction to Ethics

Syllabus
Spring 2015
MWF 11:00-11:50 am
Center Hall
Room 119

Andy Lamey
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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: MW 12:00-1:00 pm

Overview

This class is an introduction to moral philosophy. It is divided into three sections. In the first we will examine an area of moral theory known as metaethics. Metaethical theories attempt to answer general questions about the nature of morality. They include whether morality depends on God's will, or whether moral truths are culturally relative. Section two addresses normative ethics, or the branch of moral theory that seeks to outline our ethical duties and obligations. A representative question in this area of moral theory would be whether it is permissible to kill one person to save five others. Our third and final section addresses an issue in political philosophy, the question of what kind of marriages should be legally recognized or permitted. The class presupposes no previous background in philosophy, and students in all majors can do well if they make an effort.

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Location</i>
Tanya Hall	TanyaHall@ucsd.edu	TBA	TBA
Dean Tracy	datracy@ucsd.edu	T 1:30-2:30p	EBU3B RM1124

Assessment

A 1,200-word essay due 5:00 pm Thursday April 23 (20%)*

A 1,200-word word essay due 5:00 pm Thursday May 21 (20%)*

Lecture clicker sessions (15%) Mid-term (15%) Final examΨ (20%)

Discussion section mark (5% attendance§ + 5% participation = 10%)

*Students will write four essays total, two during quarter and two during exam week, the best three of which will count toward the final grade.

ΨStudents cannot pass the course without completing the final exam, which will consist of two take-home essays.

§More than two unexcused absences will result in an attendance mark of zero.

Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the class reader, available at Soft Reserves, as well as *The Elements of Moral Philosophy, Eighth Edition*, available at the bookstore.

1. Week of March 30: Intro to Phil 13 and Cultural Relativism

Nussbaum, Martha. "Judging Other Cultures: The Case of Genital Mutilation." *Sex and Social Justice* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), 118-29.

Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism." *The Elements of Moral Philosophy, Eighth Edition* (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2010), 15-32.

2. Week of April 6: Egoism

Rand, Ayn. "The Ethics of Emergencies." *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems, Second Edition*, Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 84-91.

Fineberg, Joel. "Psychological Egoism." *Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues, Fifth Edition*. Steven Cahn and Peter Markie eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 584-91.

Optional: "Ethical Egoism," in Rachels and Rachels, 64-81.

3. Week of April 13: Morality and Religion

Plato. "Euthyphro." *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems, Second Edition*, Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 63-71.

"Does Morality Depend on Religion?" in Rachels and Rachels, 49-63.

4. Week of April 20: Act Utilitarianism

Mill, John Stuart. "What Utilitarianism Is." *On Liberty and Utilitarianism* (London: David Campbell, 1992), pp. 117-136.

Smart, J.J.C. "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism." *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems, Second Edition*, Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 92-101.

5: Week of April 27: Criticisms of Act Utilitarianism

Bernard Williams, "Persons, Character and Morality." *Moral Luck: Philosophical Papers 1973-1980* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), 1-19.

"The Debate over Utilitarianism" in Rachels and Rachels, 111-25.

6. Week of May 4: Deontology

Kant, Immanuel. "The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative." *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems*. Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 102-113.

"Are There Absolute Moral Rules?" in Rachels and Rachels, 126-36.

Friday May 9 In-class closed-book midterm

7. Week of May 11: Rule Consequentialism

Railton, Peter. "Alienation, Consequentialism, and The Demands of Morality." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 13.2 (1984): 134-71.

Hooker, Brad. Chapter Two of *Ideal Code, Real World: A Rule Consequentialist Theory of Morality* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), 32-71.

8. Week of May 18: Virtue Ethics

Hursthouse, Rosalind. "Normative Virtue Ethics." *Ethical Theory: An Anthology, Second Edition*. Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Chichester: John Wiley & sons, 2013), 645-52.

Doris, John and Stephen Stich. "As a Matter of Fact: Empirical Perspectives on Ethics." *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy*, Frank Jackson and Michael Smith eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005): 114-23.

Optional: "Virtue Ethics," in *Rachels and Rachels*, 159-74.

9. Week of May 25: Marriage Justice I

Girgis, Sherif, Robert George, and Ryan Anderson. "What is Marriage?" *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* 34.1 (2010): 245-87.

Corvino, John. "Homosexuality and the PIB Argument." *Ethics* 115.3 (2005): 501-34.

10. Week of June 1: Marriage Justice II

Strauss, Gregg. "Is Polygamy Inherently Unequal?" *Ethics* 122.3 (2012): 516-44.

Brake, Elizabeth. "Minimal Marriage: What Political Liberalism Implies for Marriage Law." *Ethics* 120.2 (2010): 302-37.

Final exam: 06/12/2015 11:30 - 2:29

General Information

Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. Drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available immediately after class or by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not

discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.

b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Submission

Both essays will be submitted electronically. Hard copies are not required.

One-time Discretionary TA Extensions

Teaching assistants can grant each student one extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension your TA needs to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. 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 returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary TA extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

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 professor. 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 comments.

Remarking

Students unhappy with their grade for a class essay can apply to have it re-

marked. Students first need to arrange a face to face meeting with their marker to discuss the basis for the original grade. Please note that email or other electronic forms of communication are not an acceptable substitute and no remarking will occur without an initial face to face meeting. If the student and marker come to an agreement on the merit of the initial mark, or on an adjusted mark resulting from their meeting, no further student action is required. If the student still prefers a remark he or she should email me a clean copy of the original essay, without the original marker's grade or comments. The essay will then go to a second grader unfamiliar with the original grade for remarking.

In order for a remark to occur I need to receive the clean copy within three weeks of the original essay mark being released, or before the exam, whichever is sooner. Whatever grade the second marker gives the essay will be the final mark, even if it is lower than the original marker's grade.

Note that there is no option to regrade exams or complete assignments for bonus marks.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in lecture. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

Waitlist

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

Exams

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the scheduled day and time.