

Spring 2019

Phil 13: Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics

Meeting time: 10:00-10:50 MWF, Centre Hall 105

Instructor: Reuven Brandt
Office: HSS 8029
Office Hours: Mon 11:30-12:30
Email: rabrandt@ucsd.edu

TA: Dallas Amico
Office: HSS 7039
Office Hours: Fri 1 -3PM
Email: damico@ucsd.edu

Course description:

The course will be divided into four main sections. In the first section we will discuss arguments that attempt to undermine the possibility of ethics. We will look at general moral scepticism and evolutionary debunking arguments. In the second part of the course we will examine various normative moral theories – that is theories aim tell us what actions are right, and what constitutes our moral obligations and duties. We will look at utilitarianism, Kantian deontology and Ross’ pluralistic deontology. In the third section of the course we will examine different accounts of what makes a life go well. In the final section of the course we will look at the doctrine of double-effect and how it bares on complex ethical puzzles. We will end the course with a brief discussion about partiality in ethics and whether we ought to aim for moral perfection.

Course assessment:

Section attendance and participation: 10%
Comprehension quizzes: 15%
Short writing assignment: 20% (Due April 22nd)
Midterm paper: 25% (Due May 13th)
Take-home final paper: 30% (Due June 12th)

Readings (All available on the course website)

Week 1

April 1 Intro - no Readings	April 3 Shafer-Landau, Ch 1-5, from Shafer-Landau, Russ. <i>Whatever happened to good and evil?</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.	April 5 Shafer-Landau, Ch. 6-9 from, <i>Shafer-Landau, Russ. Whatever happened to good and evil?</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
---------------------------------------	--	---

Week 2

April 8 Nussbaum, ‘Women and Cultural Universals’, from <i>Nussbaum, Martha C. Sex and social justice. Oxford University Press, 1999.</i>	April 10 FitzPatrick, William J. "Debunking evolutionary debunking of ethical realism." <i>Philosophical Studies</i> 172.4 (2015): 883-904.	April 12 Fitzpatrick/recap No new reading
---	---	--

Phil. 13 Spring 2019

Week 3

<p>April 15 Mill, Ch. 2 "What Utilitarianism Is", from, Utilitarianism.</p>	<p>April 17 Mill, Ch. 5 "On the Connection between Justice and Utility." from, Utilitarianism.</p>	<p>April 19 Williams, "A Critique of Utilitarianism"</p>
--	---	---

Week 4

<p>April 22 Parfit, "The Repugnant Conclusion" from Parfit, Derek. Reasons and persons. OUP Oxford, 1984.</p> <p>(Short assignment due)</p>	<p>April 24 Kant, Section I of The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</p>	<p>April 26 Kant, Section II of the Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, up to 4:424</p>
--	---	--

Week 5

<p>April 29 Kant cntd. (no new reading)</p>	<p>May 1st Herman, Barbara. "Mutual aid and respect for persons." Ethics 94.4 (1984): 577-602.</p>	<p>May 3rd Kant – criticisms from, The Fundamentals of Ethics, Second Edition (2010)</p>
--	--	--

Week 6

<p>May 6 Ross, "What makes Right Actions Right?" from, Ross, David. "The Right and the Good." (1930).</p>	<p>May 8 Ross / recap</p> <p>No new readings</p>	<p>May 10 Crisp, R. (2006). Hedonism reconsidered. <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i>, 73(3), 619-645.</p>
--	---	--

Week 7

<p>May 13 Heathwood, C. (2015). Desire-fulfillment theory. <i>The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy of Well-Being</i>, New York: Routledge, 135-47.</p> <p>(Midterm Paper Due)</p>	<p>May 15 Nozick, 'The Experience Machine', from Nozick, Robert. Anarchy, state, and utopia. Vol. 5038. New York: Basic Books, 1974.</p> <p>Rice, Christopher M. "Defending the Objective List Theory of Well-Being." <i>Ratio</i> 26.2 (2013): 196-211.</p>	<p>May 17 Parfit, "What Makes a life Go Well", from Parfit, Derek. Reasons and persons. OUP Oxford, 1984.</p>
---	---	--

Phil. 13 Spring 2019

Week 8

May 20 Wolf, Susan. "Happiness and meaning: two aspects of the good life." <i>Social Philosophy and Policy</i> 14.1 (1997): 207-225.	May 22 Foot, Philippa. "The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of Double Effect." <i>Oxford Review</i> 5 (1967): 5-15.	May 24 Quinn, Warren. "Actions, Intentions, and Consequences: The Doctrine of Double Effect." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> (1989): 334-351.
--	--	---

Week 9

May 27 – No Class!	May 29th Singer, P. (1972). Famine, affluence, and morality. <i>Philosophy & public affairs</i> , 229-243.	May 31st Narveson, Jan. "We don't owe them a thing! A tough-minded but soft-hearted view of aid to the faraway needy." <i>The Monist</i> 86.3 (2003): 419-433
--------------------	---	--

Week 10

June 3 Cottingham, John. "Partiality, favouritism and morality." <i>The Philosophical Quarterly</i> (1950-) 36.144 (1986): 357-373.	June 5 Wolf, S. (1982). Moral saints. <i>The Journal of Philosophy</i> , 79(8), 419-439.	June 7 Review
---	--	-------------------------

Grading Policies:

- **Comprehension quizzes:** Late comprehension quizzes will not be accepted.
- **Writing assignments (except the final):** Unexcused late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. Work submitted more than 5 days late will not be accepted.
- **Take-home Final:** Late take-home finals will not be accepted without permission from the instructor, and the above penalty may be applied. Submission after **June 12th** is not possible unless a request for academic accommodation is granted. Possible grounds for such accommodation include serious illness and family disasters. An 'I' grade may be issued temporarily in such cases. Rescheduling as a result of a religious obligation is governed by the UCSD Policy on Religious Accommodation.
- **Regrading:** If you would like to dispute the grade you receive, first make an appointment to do so with your TA. As this meeting you'll be asked to provide reasons for why the essay deserves a better grade. If you cannot reach an agreement with your TA, you can have me regrade the paper. Note though that I reserve the right to give assign a lower grade than the one given by the TA.

Phil. 13 Spring 2019

General Policies:

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.
- I am happy to meet outside of office hours – contact me to make an appointment.
- I reserve the right to limit and/or prohibit the use of laptops, mobile phones, and other electronic devices at any point during the term if I judge that such devices are impeding concentration.
- If you require any form of accommodation on the grounds of disability - including access to electronic devices during lecture - please make sure you have registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities and have followed their guidelines for alerting instructors to your particular needs. The university’s policy on the accommodation of disability can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/3>
- If you require any accommodation on religious grounds, please alert me in writing as soon as possible. The university’s policy on religious accommodation can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/operating-procedures/educational-policies/courses/epc-policies-on-courses/policy-exams-including-midterms-final-exams-and-religious-accommodations-for-exams/>
- All instances of academic offences including plagiarism, cheating on exams, and multiple submission of work, will be handled in accordance with official UCSD policy, which can be found here: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>. Please read the policy, and ensure that you understand it.

Letter-grade conversion table:

A+	97 - 100
A	93 - 96.99999
A-	90 - 92.99999
B+	87 - 89.99999
B	83 - 86.99999
B-	80 - 82.99999
C+	77 - 79.99999
C	73 - 76.99999
C-	70 - 72.99999
D	55 - 69.99999
F	0 - 54.99999