

## Phil 28: Ethics and Society (Provisional)

Winter 2025

### Instructor

Reuven Brandt

Class time: Tue, Thr. 9:30-10:50AM Location: Mosaic 0114

Office Hours: M, W. 11:30AM-12:30PM Arts and Humanities Building 0497

Email: [rabrandt@ucsd.edu](mailto:rabrandt@ucsd.edu) (Put Phil 28 in subject line)

### Teaching assistants:

Moraima Arias Bejarano <b>Office:</b> RWAC#0430 <b>Office Hours:</b> Tue 11-12 (in person) & Wed 10-11 (Zoom) <a href="mailto:moarias@ucsd.edu">moarias@ucsd.edu</a>	Amir Liron <b>Office:</b> RWAC 0435 <b>Office Hours:</b> Tue 11:00-12:00 (in person), Wed 13:30-14:30 (zoom) <a href="mailto:aliron@ucsd.edu">aliron@ucsd.edu</a>	Faron Ray <b>Office:</b> RWAC 0433 <b>Office Hours:</b> Fri 3-5PM (In person) <a href="mailto:fray@ucsd.edu">fray@ucsd.edu</a>	Emiliano Salomon <b>Office:</b> RWAC 0438 <b>Office Hours:</b> Friday 11-1 (in person) <a href="mailto:esalomn@ucsd.edu">esalomn@ucsd.edu</a>
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### Course description:

The theme of this course is civic engagement construed broadly. We will begin by examining justifications for freedom of speech. We will then examine possible limits on certain kinds of speech including hate speech and the promulgation of 'fake news'. We will then turn to civil disobedience and examine whether civil disobedience is ever justified, and what response the state should take towards those who break the law for purported moral reasons. Next we will examine whether claims of conscience ought to be afforded special legal protections. Lastly, we will look at whether the right to vote ought to be extended to minors, and whether there is a moral duty to vote. A space is reserved for a topic to be determined by the class. The goal is to have a mix of theoretical and applied readings so that there will be something for everyone.

### Readings (All available on the course website)

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1	Jan 7th Intro – no readings	Jan 9th <i>Mill, On Liberty</i> (Excerpt)
Week 2	Jan 14th Waldron, "Approaching Hate Speech", <i>The Harm in Hate Speech</i>	Jan 16th Waldron, "The Appearance of Hate", <i>The Harm in Hate Speech</i>
Week 3	Jan 21st Baker, "Hate Speech"	Jan 23rd Midterm I
Week 4	Jan 28th Rini, Regina. "Fake news and partisan epistemology." <i>Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal</i> 27.2 (2017): E-43.	Jan 30th Brown, Étienne. "1 Regulating the Spread of Online Misinformation". <i>Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology</i>

Week 5	Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>  Lefkowitz, "On a Moral Right to Civil Disobedience"	Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>  Brownlee, Kimberley. "The communicative aspects of civil disobedience and lawful punishment." <i>Criminal Law and Philosophy</i> 1 (2007): 179-192.
Week 6	Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>  Swan, Kyle, and Kevin Vallier. "The normative significance of conscience." <i>J. Ethics &amp; Soc. Phil.</i> 6 (2011)	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>  Cowley, Christopher. "A defence of conscientious objection in medicine: a reply to Schuklenk and Savulescu." <i>Bioethics</i> 30.5 (2016): 358-364.  Savulescu, Julian, and Udo Schuklenk. "Doctors have no right to refuse medical assistance in dying, abortion or contraception." <i>Bioethics</i>
Week 7	Feb 18 <sup>th</sup>  Mcleod, "Valuing Conscience and the Conscientious Provision of Abortions"	Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>  Lomasky, L. and G. Brennan, 2000, "Is There a Duty to Vote?", <i>Social Philosophy and Policy</i> , 17: 62–82.
Week 8	Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>  Brown, Brookes. "Beyond the Voting Debate." <i>Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy</i> 9 (2023): 98-126.	Feb 27 <sup>th</sup>  Midterm II
Week 9	March 4 <sup>th</sup>  Nelkin, Dana Kay (2020). What Should the Voting Age Be? <i>Journal of Practical Ethics</i> 8 (2):1-29.	March 6 <sup>th</sup>  Bengtson, Andreas, and Andreas Albertsen. "The Voting Rights of Senior Citizens: Should all Votes Count the Same?." <i>Ethical Theory and Moral Practice</i> (2023): 1-17.
Week 10	March 11 <sup>th</sup>  Open Topic	March 13 <sup>th</sup>  Review

### Assessments:

Discussion section: attendance 5%, participation 5%

Midterm 1: 20% (Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Midterm 2: 30% (Feb 27<sup>th</sup>)

Comprehensive final: 40% (March 18<sup>th</sup>, 8:00AM-11:00AM)

#### Percentage to Letter Grade Conversion Chart

Letter Grade	From	To
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

#### Participation Grade:

Students are expected to attend all discussion sections and regularly participate. Students are permitted one excused absence no questions asked. Students may request an excused absence with appropriate justification (family emergency, illness, etc.) Half the participation grade is from section attendance, the other half is based on active participation. For full marks for active participation students must make substantial contributions to the weekly discussion section 5 times over the course of the quarter. Students can fulfil the participation requirement by posting a thoughtful comment to the section discussion board at least 24 hours prior to the section meeting time.

#### Grade Disputes:

If you wish to appeal your grade first raise the matter with your TA. Your appeal should include some justification for why you think your grade was incorrect – a good way to do this is to respond to comments made by your TA on your exam. If you are unable to reach a satisfactory resolution with your TA you can request a regrade from the instructor. **Note that the regrade may result in a lower grade.**

#### Zoon Policy

As a general rule class recordings *will not* be made available. However, I will make exceptions to this policy if provided with a valid reason for academic accommodation. Reasons include but are not limited to illness, personal/family emergency, travel for university purposes, unforeseen events that require you to be away from campus.

#### General Policies:

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.

- If you require any form of accommodation on the grounds of disability 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> 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. 858.534.4382 (phone) | [osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu) (email) | <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)
- 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.

**Integrity Statement:**

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act by asking yourself: a) is what I'm about to do or submit for credit an honest, fair, respectful, responsible & trustworthy representation of my knowledge and abilities at this time and, b) would my instructor approve of my action? You are ultimately the only person responsible for your behavior. So, if you are unsure, don't ask a friend—ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at [academicintegrity.ucsd.edu](http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu)" (Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018)