

**Philosophy 27/Political Science 27: ETHICS AND SOCIETY**  
Winter 2013

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**Course Description:** In this course we will explore several pressing ethical issues, most of which involve decisions that can make the difference between life and death, including euthanasia, abortion, and aid to the needy. We will consider whether death can ever be good for a human being, whether killing a human being for her own good is ever morally permissible, whether there is a morally significant difference between killing and letting die (and, more generally, between doing harm and allowing it to occur), whether human fetuses are moral persons, whether abortion is never, sometimes, or always morally permissible, and whether each of us has a moral obligation to help those in desperate need. The immediate aim of the course is to help you understand and evaluate arguments for and against various answers that might be provided to ethical questions. The ultimate aim of the course is to help you arrive at your own reasoned, justified, and well-informed position on moral issues. There will also be four guest lecturers. The topics they will discuss are: licensing parents (Gina Schouten, January 14), animal consideration and environmental ethics (Marcus Hedahl, January 28), torture (Andy Lamey, February 4), and genetic enhancement (Jonathan Anomaly, February 11). Attendance at the guest lectures is **required**, with exceptions only in case of documented illness or unanticipated documented emergency (or other form of valid excuse).

***Course Website:*** I will be posting the readings for the guest lectures, the course powerpoints, the paper topic, and the final study questions (see below) on the TED website for the course, under *Content*.

***Discussion Sections:*** Discussion sections meet once a week. Sections are designed to give you an opportunity to meet in groups, to ask questions and have them answered by your TA, and to discuss the course material in greater depth than is possible in lecture. Section attendance is ***required***, and participation is worth 10% of your course grade.

***Course Schedule and Readings:*** All course readings except for the guest lecture readings are available through electronic course reserves at <http://reserves.ucsd.edu>. Guest lecture readings will be made available on the TED course website. I strongly recommend downloading and printing as many of the readings as you can at the beginning of the course. The TA's and I will not respond to requests to email you copies of the readings. If you have difficulty locating or downloading the readings, please contact the UCSD library (about electronic course reserves) or ACMS (about TED).

### ***Course Powerpoints***

The PowerPoint slides used in the regular lectures (not including whatever slides might be used in the guest lectures) are available in PDF format on the TED course website. You are welcome to bring them with you to the lectures. ***These slides are protected by copyright, and it is illegal for you to post them on any website, sell them to anyone, or send them to anyone in any form (including email) without my permission. They are for your personal use only.***

#### **1/7 Introduction**

#### **1/9 Euthanasia 1: A Good Death**

Readings: Nagel, "Death"  
Foot, "Euthanasia," pp. 85-96

#### **1/14 Licensing Parents (Gina Schouten)**

Readings: Lafollette, "Licensing Parents" [see TED]

#### **1/16 Euthanasia 2: Utility**

Readings: Hooker, "Rule-Utilitarianism and Euthanasia"  
AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs, "Decisions at the End of Life: Euthanasia"

#### **1/21 NO LECTURE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

#### **1/23 Euthanasia 3: The Doctrine of Doing and Allowing**

Readings: Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia"  
Tooley, "An Irrelevant Consideration: Killing Versus Letting Die"

- 1/28 Animal Consideration and Environmental Ethics (Marcus Hedahl)**  
 Readings: Foster Wallace, “Consider the Lobster” [see TED]  
 Baxter, “People or Penguins” [see TED]
- 1/30 Euthanasia 4: The Doctrine of Doing and Allowing Revisited**  
 Readings: Foot, “Euthanasia,” pp. 96-112
- 2/4 The Ethics of Torture (Andy Lamey)**  
 Readings: Allhoff, “Terrorism and Torture” [see TED]  
 Bufacchi and Arrigo, “Torture, Terrorism and the State: A Refutation of the Ticking-Bomb Argument” [see TED]
- 2/6 Abortion 1: Against**  
 Readings: Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”  
 Sinnott-Armstrong, “You Can’t Lose What You Ain’t Never Had: A Reply to Marquis on Abortion”
- 2/11 Genetic Enhancement (Jonathan Anomaly)**  
 Readings: Resnik, “The Moral Significance of the Therapy-Enhancement Distinction” [see TED]  
 Buchanan on Enhancement, Philosophy Bites podcast:  
<http://philosophybites.com/2009/05/allen-buchanan-on-enhancement.html>  
 [Click on “Listen to Allen Buchanan on Enhancement”]
- 2/13 MID-TERM EXAMINATION**
- 2/18 NO LECTURE: PRESIDENTS’ DAY**
- 2/20 Abortion 2: For**  
 Readings: Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”
- 2/25 Abortion 3: Moral Status**  
 Readings: Warren, “On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion”
- 2/27 Abortion 4: Law**  
 Readings: *Roe v. Wade, Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (excerpts)
- 3/4 PAPER DUE**  
**Aid to the Needy 1: The Singer Challenge**  
 Readings: Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”
- 3/6 Aid to the Needy 2: The Fairness Response**  
 Readings: Murphy, “The Demands of Beneficence”  
 Arneson, “Moral Limits on the Demands of Beneficence?” pp. 1-10
- 3/11 Aid to the Needy 3: Justice**  
 Readings: Pogge, “Eradicating Systemic Poverty: A Brief for a Global Resources Dividend”

### 3/13 Conclusion: Rights v. Utility

MONDAY, MARCH 18 FINAL EXAMINATION (11:30am-2:30pm)

#### Requirements:

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|--------------------------------|-----|
| • 1 midterm exam (February 13) | 20% |
| • 1 paper (due March 4)        | 25% |
| • 1 final exam (March 18)      | 45% |
| • Section participation        | 10% |

#### Grading Policies:

- **Attendance at the guest lectures is required. Any unexcused absence from one of the guest lectures will result in a penalty of one-third of a grade on the final exam.** For example, if you miss one guest lecture without a valid excuse and a straight evaluation of your final exam (without taking attendance into account) results in an A-, then your final exam grade will end up being a B+.
- Make-up examinations and paper extensions will only be given to those who present evidence indicative of a valid excuse in a timely manner. If at any time you believe you have a legitimate claim to an extension or make-up, bring it to my attention as soon as possible. ***Unexcused late papers and unexcused missed examinations will receive a grade of 'F'.***
- Grading will be done primarily by your TA, in consultation with me and the other TAs for the course. If you have any questions or disagreements about the grading of your work, please see your TA *first* to discuss the matter. The likelihood is that you will come to a mutual understanding with your TA; but if, for some reason, you are unable to do so, then you should feel free to see me.
- A hard copy of your paper (due March 4) must be turned in to your TA and an electronic copy uploaded to turnitin.com. It is very easy to upload your papers, and instructions will be included in your assignment.

#### Additional Notes

- **The use of any electronic equipment other than a note-taking device during lecture is prohibited. The use of such equipment for any purpose other than note-taking is also prohibited. Any student who is watching videos, IM'ing, surfing the web, texting, or engaging in any form of activity that is not directly related to this course or poses a risk of distracting other students during lecture will be asked to leave.**
- If accommodations are needed for a disability or for religious reasons, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.

- The academic honor code must be observed in this course. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. **Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic F in the course (not just an F on the relevant assignment) and will be referred to the Office of Academic Integrity and the Council of Deans for administrative penalties, which may include suspension or expulsion from UCSD.**
- The policies, readings, and schedule described above are subject to change.