

Philosophy / Political Science 28: Ethics and Society II

UCSD – Winter 2014

MW 3pm-3:50pm in Peterson Hall 110

Teaching Assistants: Damon Crockett, Jonathan Knutzen, Erik Olson, and Michael Pittman

Lecturer: Theron Pummer

tgpummer@gmail.com

Office Hours: MW 10:30am-11:30am in H&SS 7093

Course Content: We will explore contemporary moral debates concerning what, if anything, affluent individuals should do about distant needy persons who are living in extreme poverty. In particular, we will focus on how individuals might help by giving money to effective charities – and we will discuss global justice and equality, analogies with cases of nearby rescue, the moral significance of making a difference, and the personal demands of doing what's right.

Grading and Assignments:

(1) Participation	... 10%
(2) Midterm exam	... 25%
(3) Two short papers	... 15% each (30% total)
(4) Longer paper	... 35%

The midterm will contain multiple choice questions, short responses, and short essays. It will cover all of the assigned readings and lectures before February 3rd. You will have 50 minutes to complete it. The two short papers will be 1,000 words each, and the longer paper will be 2,000 words. To receive credit on these papers, you must upload them to turnitin.com (I will provide instructions on how to do this). There is no final exam. Your participation grade will be a function of your participation during discussion section, during office hours, or over email; you are not required to participate in all of these ways to receive full credit for participation. Your TAs may choose to occasionally administer surprise quizzes on the assigned readings. Your scores on these quizzes will factor into your participation grade. I have no attendance policy, but your grade will likely suffer if you are absent. There are no make-up exams or quizzes, unless you can prove (e.g., with sufficient medical documentation) that an emergency prevented you from attending class. You may not take the midterm exam in advance of the date specified here, unless you contact me during the first week of class, and offer a very good reason.

A 70% (C-) or higher in the course is passing, but Warren College students must take the course for a letter grade to satisfy the Warren College general education requirement.

Academic Integrity: You are expected to do your own work as outlined in the UCSD Policy on Academic Integrity (<http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html>). Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and any student who engages in suspicious conduct will be confronted and subjected to the disciplinary process. Confirmed academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade for the entire course, and it may result in expulsion from UCSD. Plagiarism often occurs when students are worried about making deadlines. If you think you will need to turn in an assignment late or incomplete, please talk to me. I would rather have you ask for an extension or turn in an incomplete assignment than engage in academic dishonesty.

Wait-Listed Students: If you are currently on the wait-list, you are welcome to attend lecture and discussion section for the first couple of weeks and see if a seat opens up. However, there is a good chance that not many people will drop the course. If you are ultimately unable to enroll in this course, note that Phil/Polisci 28 will be offered again in spring 2014.

Class Format, Readings, and Expectations: A typical class will consist of a lecture on one of the assigned readings or on a topic associated with one of the assigned readings. One aim of the lectures is to work through the arguments offered in the readings in a careful and systematic way. Another aim is to raise objections to these arguments. Since the lectures will usually presuppose familiarity with the relevant readings, you are required to have completed the reading in advance of the lecture on it. You are invited and encouraged to raise your hand and interrupt lectures with questions, comments, or objections.

All the readings are available on electronic reserves: <http://reserves.ucsd.edu/eres/default.aspx> (go to Students, select the Philosophy Department, then select Phil 28, password is **tp28**). You are responsible for the material covered in the required readings and in the lectures. Readings listed below are required unless specified otherwise. Often the lectures will go beyond any of the readings.

Please leave your laptops at home when you attend lecture and discussion. They can very easily distract you and those around you, and often taking notes by hand is more useful anyhow (you can type up your hand-written notes once you get back home). Please turn your cell phones and other electronic devices off during lecture and discussion. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Reading and Lecture Schedule:

Introduction

M Jan. 6th: Logic, arguments, and intuitions in ethics

W Jan. 8th: Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," and "The Why and How of Effective Altruism" (TED talk: http://www.ted.com/talks/peter_singer_the_why_and_how_of_effective_altruism.html)

Goodness and Justice

M Jan. 13th and W 15th: Derek Parfit, "Equality and Priority," Richard Arneson, "Do Patriotic Ties Limit Global Justice Duties?" (recommended but not required), and Thomas Pogge, "Real World Justice" (recommended but not required) **First Short Paper Due on W Jan. 15th (in class)**

Does Charity Start at Home?

M Jan. 20th: no class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)

W Jan. 22nd, M 27th, and W 29th: Toby Ord, "The Moral Imperative toward Cost-Effectiveness in Global Health" (And please visit: <http://givingwhatwecan.org/>), Peter Unger, *Living High and Letting Die*, chapter 2 (chapter 1 recommended but not required), and Frances Kamm, "Does Distance Matter Morally to the Duty of Rescue?" (recommended but not required) **M Feb. 3rd: Midterm Exam**

Making a Difference

W Feb. 5th: Shelly Kagan, "Do I Make a Difference?" (beyond section X is recommended but not required), Julia Nefsky, "Consequentialism and the Problem of Collective Harm: A Reply to Kagan" (recommended but not required), Julia Nefsky, "How You Can Help, Without Making a Difference" (I will email this to you)

M Feb. 10th: Caspar Hare, "Obligations to Merely Statistical People"

W Feb. 12th: William MacAskill, "Replaceability, Career Choice, and Making a Difference"

M Feb. 17th: no class (Presidents' Day)

How Much Should I Give?

W Feb. 19th: Liam Murphy, "The Demands of Beneficence" and **Second Short Paper Due (in class)**

M Feb. 24th and W Feb. 26th: Garrett Cullity, "Asking Too Much"

M Mar. 3rd: Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints"

W Mar. 5th and M Mar. 10th: Peter Unger, *Living High and Letting Die*, chapter 6 (beyond page 143 is recommended but not required)

W Mar. 12th: Judith Lichtenberg, "Famine, Affluence, and Psychology" (and Singer's reply) and Andreas Mogensen, "The Relationship Between Income, Happiness, and Giving" (recommended but not required, available here: <http://www.givingwhatwecan.org/about-us/our-research/the-relationship-between-income-happiness-and-giving>) **Longer Paper Due at 3pm on W Mar. 19th**

Important Phone Numbers:

UCSD Campus Police: 858-534-HELP / 858-534-4357

Campus Security Officers / Escort Program: 858-534-WALK / 858-534-9255

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Central Office: 858-534-3755 (Galbraith Hall 190)