

Phil 27: Ethics and Society

Winter 2019

Instructor

Reuven Brandt

Office: HSS 8088 (Kerry McKnzie's office)

Office Hours: Mon 9:30-10:30AM; Thur 12-1PM

Email: rbrandt@ucsd.edu

Teaching assistants:

William Albuquerque walbuque@ucsd.edu Office hours: Mon 3-4 Wed 4-5 PM Perks Cafe	Dallas Amico damico@ucsd.edu Office hours: Fri 2-3 HSS 7039	Noel Martin nbmartin@ucsd.edu Office hours: Wed 1-3 HSS 7039	Marcus Mcgahhey mmcgahhe@ucsd.edu Office hours: Wed 1:30-3:30 HSS 7043
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Course description:

This class is an introduction to philosophical approaches to contemporary questions in applied ethics. In the first portion of the class we will be examining three theoretical approaches to ethical questions: Mill's utilitarianism, Kant's deontology, and Ross' pluralistic deontology. With this theoretical background in place we will then move to examining questions that arise in applied ethics. The first two questions we will look at pertain to reproductive ethics. We will look at whether parents ought to be licensed, and what kind of future parents must ensure for their children. Next we will look at whether drugs should be legal. The last section will look at what we owe to others, what a just society should ensure for its members, and whether morality requires us to treat everyone impartially.

Readings (All available on the course website)

	Monday	Wednesday
Week 1	Jan 7 Intro	Jan 9 Excerpt from <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Mill
Week 2	Jan 14 Excerpt from <i>Groundwork for the metaphysics of morals</i> , Kant	Jan 16 "What makes right actions Right", <i>The Right and the Good</i> , Ross
Week 3	Jan 21 – No Class	Jan 23 Theory recap
Week 4	Jan 28 LaFollette, "Licensing Parents"	Jan 30 Frisch, "On licentious licensing: A reply to Hugh LaFollette"

Week 5	Feb 4 Feinberg, "The Child's Right to an Open Future"	Feb 6 C Mills, "The Child's Right to an Open Future?"
Week 6	Feb 11 Smith, "Drugs, Morality and the Law"	Feb 13 Corlett, "Taking Drugs <i>Very Seriously</i> "
Week 7	Feb 18 – No Class	Feb 20 Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"
Week 8	Feb 25 Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics"	Feb 27 Nozick, "Distributive Justice," Anarchy State and Utopia
Week 9	Mar 4 Excerpt, Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i>	Mar 6 More Nozick and Rawls
Week 10	Mar 11 Cottingham, "Partiality, favouritism and morality"	Mar 13 Review

Assessments:

Section: Attendance 5%, Participation 5%

Comprehension quizzes: 15% (3 Online)

Short Essay (1500 words): 35% (Due Feb 15 at 11:59PM)

Final Essay (2000 words): 40% (due March 20th at 11:59PM)

NOTE: There is no sit-down final

Late Policy:

Comprehension quizzes: Late comprehension quizzes will not be accepted

Paper 1: 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 March 23rd 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.

General Policies:

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.
- 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 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 (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.