

PHIL 28 Ethics & Society II

Syllabus
Winter 2019
MW 4:00-5:00 am
Center Hall
Room 101

Andy Lamey
alamey@ucsd.edu
(858) 534-9111 (no voicemail)
Office: HSS 7017
Office hours: M 5:00-6:00 pm / W 2:00-3:00 pm

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Location</i>
Chirag Barai	cbarai@ucsd.edu	W 1:30-3:30 pm	Audrey's Cafe
Jonathan Knutzen	jknutzen@ucsd.edu	M 2:00-4:00 pm	HSS 7086
Emily Petkas	epetkas@ucsd.edu	W 2:00-4:00 pm	HSS 7039
Richard Vagnino	rvagnino@ucsd.edu	M 1:30-3:30 pm	HSS 7013

Content

This class examines ethical and political questions pertaining to the environment. It is divided into two sections. In the first we focus on questions of food ethics. Here we examine issues pertaining to the moral status of animals and the environmental impact of the industrialized agricultural system that provides most of our food. In the second section we examine issues related to human caused climate change. In particular we investigate questions raised by efforts to mitigate, manage or prevent the effects of climate change. Is it for example morally permissible to engage in carbon trading? What about discounting the interests of future generations when making environmental decisions that will affect them? Should we try to reverse the effects of climate change through such transformative practices as geoengineering or reintroducing extinct species? Much of our discussion throughout the entire class will focus on positive steps that might be taken to address climate change, at both an individual and collective level.

Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday January 29 (20%)

A 2,000-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday February 26 (20%)

Lecture clicker sessions (15%) Reading quizzes (10%) Exam-essay (25%)

Discussion section grade (5% attendance + 5% participation = 10%)*

* Students who miss more than two discussion section meetings without an excuse will receive an attendance grade of zero.

The key to doing well in this class is staying current with the weekly readings.

Readings and Schedule

There are two types of assigned texts:

- 1) Christopher Schlottmann and Jeff Sebo, *Food, Animals and the Environment: An Ethical Approach* (New York: Routledge, 2019).
- 2) A collection of readings.

Schlottmann and Sebo's book is available at the bookstore and the library. All other readings are available on TritonEd.

Week One: Introduction to Phil 28 and Moral Theory

Monday: No reading.

Wednesday: Schlottmann and Sebo, Chapter Three: Moral Theory, 27-48.

Week Two: Moral Status & Agriculture and the Environment

Monday: Schlottmann and Sebo, Chapter Four: Moral Status, 49-69.

Wednesday: Schlottmann and Sebo, Chapter Five: Agriculture and the Environment, 70-104.

Week Three: Industrial Agriculture and its Alternatives

Monday: No class (Martin Luther King Day).

Wednesday: Schlottmann and Sebo, Chapters Six and Seven: Industrial Agriculture and Alternatives to Industrial Agriculture, 105-155.

Week Four: The Ethics of Food Production and Consumption

Monday: Schlottmann and Sebo, Chapter Eight: The Ethics of Food Production, 156-79.

Wednesday: Schlottmann and Sebo, Chapter Nine: The Ethics of Food Production, 180-201.

Tuesday January 29: First Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week Five: Cowspiracy (film)

Monday: *Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret*, directed by Kip Andersen and Keegan Kuhn, 2014.

Wednesday: Note that there are three (short) readings for this class:

Doug Boucher, "Movie Review: There's a Vast Cowspiracy About Climate Change," *The Equation*, June 10, 2016.

Doug Boucher, "Book Review: The Global Climate and a Defense of Beef," *The Equation*, June 28, 2016.

Doug Boucher, "Beef and the Paris Agreement: Changing What We Eat to Stop Causing Climate Change," *The Equation*, May 4, 2016.

Week Six: Carbon Trading

Monday: Two readings: Michael Sandel: "It's Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute," *The New York Times*, December 15, 1997; and Robert Goodin, "Selling Environmental Indulgences," *Kyklos* 47 (1994): 573-96.

Wednesday: Simon Caney and Cameron Hepburn. "Carbon Trading: Unethical, Unjust and Ineffective?," *Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplements* 69 (2011): 201-234.

Week Seven: Geoengineering

Monday: No class (Presidents' Day).

Wednesday: Note that there are three (mostly short) readings for this class:

Rayner, Steve, et al. "The Oxford Principles of Geoengineering," (2011). Available at <http://www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/oxford-principles/principles/?> (one page).

Powell, Russell, et al., "The Ethics of Geoengineering: Working Draft," (2010). Available at http://www.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/21325/Ethics_of_Geoengineering_Working_Draft.pdf (eight pages).

Stephen Gardiner, "Is 'Arming the Future' With Geoengineering Really The Lesser Evil?: Some Doubts About the Ethics of Intentionally Manipulating the Climate System," in *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings*, Stephen Gardiner et al, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 284-311.

Week Eight: Discounting

Monday: Two readings: Derek Parfit, "What Weight Should We Give to The Interests of Future People?," Appendix F, *Reasons and Persons* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984), 356-7, 480-86; and Simon Caney, "Climate Change and the Future: Discounting for Time, Wealth, and Risk," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 40 (2009): 163-186.

Wednesday: Joseph Heath, "Climate Ethics: Justifying a Positive Social Time Preference," *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 14 (2017) 435-62.

Tuesday February 26: Second Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week Nine: Climate Refugees

Monday: Mathias Risse, "The Right to Relocation: Disappearing Island Nations and Common Ownership of the Earth." *Ethics & International Affairs* 23 (2009): 281-300.

Wednesday: Cara Nine, "Ecological Refugees, States Borders, and the Lockean Proviso," *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 27 (2010): 359-375.

Week Ten: De-extinction

Monday: Two readings: Christopher Gyngell, and Julian Savulescu. "Promoting Biodiversity." *Philosophy & Technology* (2016): 1-14 and Douglas Campbell. "A case for resurrecting lost species—review essay of Beth Shapiro's, 'How to Clone a Mammoth: The Science of De-extinction.'" *Biology & Philosophy* 31 (2016): 747-759.

Wednesday: Ronald Sandler. "The Ethics of Reviving Long Extinct Species." *Conservation Biology* 28 (2014): 354-360.

General Information

Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. Drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available immediately after class or by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are three subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.
- c) Requests for information that can be found in the syllabus.

Submission

All essays will be submitted electronically. Hard copies are not required.

One-time Discretionary TA Extensions

Teaching assistants can grant each student one extension of up to 48 hours

without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension your TA needs to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary TA extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

For all assignments handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your professor. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

Re-grading

Students unhappy with their grade for a class essay can apply to have it re-graded. Students first need to arrange a face-to-face meeting with their grader to discuss the basis for the original grade. Please note that email or other electronic forms of communication are not an acceptable substitute and no remarking will occur without an initial face-to-face meeting. If the student and grader come to an agreement on the merit of the initial grade, or on an adjusted grade resulting from their meeting, no further student action is required. If the student still prefers a re-grade he or she should email me a clean copy of the original essay, without the original grade or comments. The essay will then go to a second grader unfamiliar with the original grade for remarking.

In order for a re-grade to occur I need to receive the clean copy within two weeks of the original essay grade being released, or before the exam, whichever is sooner. Whatever grade the second marker gives the essay will be the final grade, even if it is lower than the original grade.

Note that there is no option to re-grade exams or exam-essays, or to complete assignments for bonus marks.

Accommodation for Disability

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. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in lecture. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

Exams

If this class has an exam then all students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the scheduled day and time.