

SYLLABUS, PHIL 13: Ethics, Fall 2010

Class: TR 2-3:20, CENTR 113

Saba Bazargan
Office Hours: by appointment

READINGS: One book is required- Utilitarianism: For and Against by Smart & Williams. All other readings can be found on the course webpage: [sites.google.com/site/bazarganthings/]

GRADING: There will be three in-class short-answer tests, each worth 30% of your total grade. Each test will be the same length. Study questions will be provided one week before each test. Attendance at discussion is worth 10% of your total grade.

TOPICS: This course will consist of an introduction to meta-ethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics. The ordering of the topics we will cover is pre-arranged. But the amount of time we will spend on each topic is not.

CHEATING: UCSD policy- [<http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>]

MISC: Unless you have language or hearing difficulties, I prefer that you refrain from recording lecture.

TAs: Adam Streed and Michael Mullins

I. Meta-Ethics

I.A. The Possibility of Ethics

Are there any true ethical claims?
What, if anything, makes an ethical claim true?
Is relativism about ethical claims correct?
Bernard Williams, 'Subjectivism'

I.B. The Basis of Ethics

Does morality require a religious basis?
Plato, 'Euthyphro'
David Brink, 'The Autonomy of Ethics'
Does morality rest on psychological egoism?
Is altruism possible?
Joel Feinberg, 'Psychological Egoism'

I.C. Values in Ethics

Does an individual's good consist in his or her pleasure?
Bentham, An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, ch. I
Does desire satisfaction have value when it occurs unbeknownst to the individual?
Robert Nozick, 'The Experience Machine'

II. Normative Ethics

II.A. The Formal Structure of Ethics

What is the relationship between right acts and good acts?

II.B. Utilitarian Ethics

Varieties of Utilitarianism
UF&A, PI: §2 & §3
Altruism, Benevolence, Emotions, & Fairness
UF&A, PI: §4 & §5
Right/Wrong vs. Rational/Irrational,
Future Generations
UF&A, PI: §6 & §7
Utilitarianism, Justice, & Meta-Ethics
UF&A, PI: §9 & §10

II.C. Critique of Utilitarianism

The Structure of Consequentialism
UF&A, P2: §1 & §2
Negative Responsibility Revisited,
Remoter Effects
UF&A, P2: §3 & §4
Integrity
UF&A, P2: §5
Indirect (Self-Effacing) Utilitarianism,
Social Choices
UF&A, P2: §6 & §7

II.D. Kantian Ethics

Duty and the Good Will
GMM: Preface, First Section
Hypothetical and Categorical Imperatives
GMM: Second Section, first half
Universal Law
GMM: Second Section, second half

III. Applied Ethics

III.A. World Hunger

Is Utilitarianism Too Demanding?
Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
Liam Murphy, "The Demands of Beneficence"

III.B. Intoxicated Consent

When does 'yes' mean 'yes'?
Alan Wertheimer, "Intoxicated Consent to Sexual Relations"

III.C. Ethics of Driving

Is it permissible to make yourself safer by imposing risks on others?
Husak – "Vehicles and Crashes - Why Is This Moral Issue Overlooked?"