

# SYLLABUS, PHIL 13: Ethics, Fall 2011

Class: Tu&Th 2-3:20, CENTR 115

Saba Bazargan

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**READINGS:** One book is required- Utilitarianism: For and Against by Smart & Williams. All other readings can be found on the course webpage: [ <http://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:** Jeremy Gomer: [jgomer@ucsd.edu](mailto:jgomer@ucsd.edu), Kyle Sereda: [ksereda@ucsd.edu](mailto:ksereda@ucsd.edu), Nat Jacobs: [njacobs@ucsd.edu](mailto:njacobs@ucsd.edu)

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## 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. 1*  
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*

### II.D. Kantian Ethics

Duty and the Good Will  
*GMM: Preface, Ch. 1.*  
Hypothetical and Categorical Imperatives  
*GMM: Ch. 2 (to pg. 29)*  
Universal Law  
*GMM: Ch. 2 (pg 29 to end of chapter)*

## III. Applied Ethics

### III.A. World Hunger

Is Utilitarianism Too Demanding?  
*Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"*

### 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?"*

### III.D. [TBA?]