

**Philosophy 200: Proseminar
Responsibility and Punishment
Fall 2011, Tuesdays 1-4
Syllabus--draft 9/20/2011**

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Course Description: This course is designed to introduce you to graduate work in philosophy at UCSD through a small seminar of your peers where you will be able to hone your analytic, writing, and presentation skills. The small size of the class will allow everyone to be fully involved in the philosophical conversation and to practice philosophical writing throughout the quarter. We will engage all of these skills in the course of exploring contemporary classic texts on a set of related issues with direct implications for metaphysics, ethics, the law, and our self-conception. Beginning with a set of powerful skeptical challenges to our self-conception as free and responsible agents, we will then critically evaluate a variety of responses. In the second half of the seminar, we will turn to the related questions of how punishment and responsibility are related and what, if anything, justifies punishment.

Course Readings and Schedule:

Sources:

A number of articles and book excerpts available for copying in the department library, or available from UCSD library's databases.

Schedule and Readings:

Please note: Because of the nature of the course, there are many excellent articles and books that do not appear on the reading list. Please feel free to ask me for further recommendations whenever you find topics that interest you. Finally, follow "footnote trails" and use the Philosopher's Index, Google Scholar and other databases to find additional readings.

9/27: Responsibility: Skeptical Arguments
Strawson, "The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility"
Nagel, *The View From Nowhere*, excerpt

10/4: Responsibility and the Reactive Attitudes
Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment"
Watson, "Responsibility and the Limits of Evil: Variations on a Strawsonian Theme"

10/11: Compatibilism: Real Self Views and Reasons-Responsiveness Views
Frankfurt, "Moral Responsibility and the Principle of Alternate Possibilities"
Frankfurt, "Free Will and the Concept of a Person"
Fischer and Ravizza, *Responsibility and Control*, chapters 2 and 3

Recommended: Watson, "Free Agency," Wolf, *Freedom Within Reason*, chapter 4; Nelkin *Making Sense of Freedom and Responsibility*, chapters 2 and 3.

10/18: Libertarianism: Event Causal Views and Agent Causal Views
Kane, "Responsibility, Luck, and Chance: Reflections on Free Will and Indeterminism"
O'Connor, "Agent Causation"

Recommended: Clark, *Libertarian Accounts of Free Will*

10/25: Punishment: An Introduction
Hart, "Prolegomenon to the Principles of Punishment"
Hart, "Postscript: Responsibility and Retribution"

Recommended: Duff, "Legal Punishment" (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

11/1: Punishment: Skepticism
Pereboom, "The Free Will Skeptic's Challenge to Retributivism"
Smilansky, "Hard Determinism and Punishment: A Practical *Reductio*

11/8: Punishment: Retributivism
Morris, "Persons and Punishment"
Moore, *Placing Blame*, chapter 2

Recommended: Nozick, *Philosophical Explanations*, pp. 363-397; Boonin, *The Problem of Punishment*, chapter 3

11/15: Punishment: Aspects of Consequentialism
Arneson, "The Smart Theory of Moral Responsibility"
Rawls, "Two Concepts of Rules"

Recommended: Smart, "Free Will, Praise, and Blame", Boonin, *The Problem of Punishment*, chapter 2

11/22: Punishment and The Right to Threaten
Quinn, "The Right to Threaten and the Right to Punish"
Otsuka, "Quinn on Punishment and Using Persons as Means"

11/29: Punishment and Communication and Putting It All Together
Duff, *Punishment, Communication, and Community*, excerpt

Course Requirements:

- *7 short 2-3 page papers responding to the readings.* (35%). For the first three, you will be given specific prompts to respond to. Each paper will be due the night before seminar meets at 9 pm, and should be uploaded to our course web site to share with your fellow students.
- *1 term paper (about 15 pages).* (35%), preceded by a prospectus that includes the main ideas and a bibliography (1-2 pages). Prospectus due: November 15, start of class; Term paper due: December 8, 5 pm. Throughout the seminar, I will offers possible topics, and you are welcome to discuss your ideas with me and ask for further reading suggestions any time.
- *Participation.* (20%)
- *1 presentation.* (10%)

Additional Notes:

- Students with disabilities: If accommodations are needed for a disability, please notify me just after the first class period or as soon as possible.
- The readings and policies described above are subject to minor change.