

evaluative claims are not really assertions at all, rather expressions of attitudes or emotions. If one holds that ethical claims can be true, the question arises, what makes them true (or false), and how might we discover the truth or falsity of any particular claim. J. L. Mackie, Ronald Dworkin, John Rawls, and Michael Huemer explore these issues.

The aims of the course are (1) to improve our skills at reading and understanding difficult writings and thinking clearly about complex issues and (2) to become more aware of the structure of our own moral views and of moral positions opposed to our own.

COURSE TEXTS: J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*; J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*; and Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Other course readings are available at the course web page. Note that the two Mill texts are also available on-line at www.utilitarian.net/jsmill/.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Surprise quizzes to be posed occasionally in discussion section meetings, a midterm exam in class (week 5), a short writing assignment, five to seven pages in length, topics to be assigned in lecture, and a regular comprehensive final examination. On your exams and the writing assignment you will be graded according to the clarity of your prose, the cogency of your arguments, and the soundness of the understanding of course materials that you exhibit. The final examination will comprehend all course materials including required (but not merely recommended) readings, lectures, and handouts distributed in class.

GRADING: If you are taking the course on a PASS/NOT PASS basis, you must get (1) a C- or better on the final examination as well as (2) an overall C- average on all course work in order to achieve a PASS grade, with one exception: If you have an A- or better average on the midterm exam, section quizzes, and writing assignment, and are enrolled on a PASS/NOT PASS basis, you need not take the final exam in order to earn a PASS grade.

The quizzes in discussion section meetings count for ten per cent of your final course grade, the midterm exam counts for 20 per cent, the writing assignment for 30 per cent, and the final examination for 40 per cent.

Only medical excuses certified by a note from your physician or a comparable certified excuse will be accepted for late submission of the writing assignment or absence from the midterm exam, or to justify the assignment of an Incomplete course grade.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS. A discussion meeting for each section will occur once a week and students are expected to attend. Quizzes posed in discussion section will be based on the reading to be done for that specific section meeting, as your TA will explain. Your attendance and performance in section will also affect your course grade in borderline cases (e.g., if the average of your grades is on the border between A- and B+). Apart from grades, the discussion sections are essential to the learning process because they provide the opportunity for a structured dialogue in which your opinions on ethical issues can be expressed, debated, and clarified. Helped by your TA, you learn from your classmates and they from you. Also, the TA will sometimes offer a different perspective on the issues from what the lectures provide.

Disability. If you have a certified disability that requires accommodation, you should register with the campus office for students with disabilities. Please let me know your disability status at the start of the course, so I can work with the office to comply with the accommodation it stipulates as appropriate.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

Week 1. March 38-April 3.

MON: Introduction to utilitarianism. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 1 and paragraphs 1-10 of chapter 2.

WED: Happiness and human good. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism* paragraphs 1-10 of chapter 2 again; Robert Adams, "Well-Being and Excellence." Further recommended reading: Richard Kraut, "Desire and Human Good", also Derek Parfit, "What makes Someone's Life Go Best?"

FRI: The place of rules in utilitarianism. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, rest of chapter 2. Further recommended reading: J. J. C. Smart, "Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism."

Week 2. April 4-10.

MON: Morality and motivation; Mill's proof. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapters 3-4.

WED: Utilitarianism, rights, and justice. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 5; also John Rawls, "Classical Utilitarianism."

FRI: Act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism. Reading: John Rawls, "Two Concepts of Rules"; also R.M. Hare, "The Archangel and the Prole."

Week 3. April 11-17.

MON: Against moral options; morality demands self-sacrifice. Reading: Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality."

WED: Doubts about self-sacrifice; the duty to favor oneself. Reading: Jean Hampton, "Selflessness and the Loss of Self."

FRI: Special ties; favoring friends and fellow citizens. Reading: Thomas Hurka, "The Justification of National Partiality" (sections 2 & 3 only).

Week 4. April 18-24.

MON: Moral rights, agent-relative duties, and consequentialism. Reading: Robert Nozick, "Moral Constraints and Moral Goals"; also Amartya Sen, "Rights and Agency" (sections 1-4 only).

WED: More on the nature of rights. Reading: Joel Feinberg, "The Nature and Value of Rights." Recommended reading: Feinberg, "The Rights of Animals and Unborn Generations."

FRI: The doctrine of double effect and the doctrine of doing and allowing. Reading: G. E. M. Anscombe, "War and Murder."

Week 5. April 25-May 1.

MON: Nonconsequentialism and rights. Reading: Judith Thomson, "Self-Defense."

WED: **MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS.**

FRI: morality, deontology, and the personal point of view. Reading: Thomas Nagel, "Autonomy and Deontology."

Week 6. May 2-8.

MON: Mill's Liberty Principle. Reading: J. S. Mill, *On Liberty*, chap. 1. (Chap. 2 is recommended but not required.)

WED: Paternalism. Reading: Joel Feinberg, "Legal Paternalism."

FRI: Individuality and liberty. Reading: Mill, *On Liberty*, chap. 3.

Week 7. May 9-15.

MON: The Liberty Principle carefully stated or qualified to death? Reading: Mill, *On Liberty*, chapters 4 & 5.

WED: Introduction to Kant's ethics; moral worth. Reading: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, section 1, plus Editor's "Introduction."

FRI From the good will to the categorical imperative. Reading: *Groundwork*, section 1 again.

Week 8. May 16-22.

MON: Categorical and hypothetical imperatives; the universal law formula; what if everyone did the same? Reading: Kant, *Groundwork*, section 2, pp. 19-36. **WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS.**

WED: Humanity as an end in itself, autonomy, and the kingdom of ends. Reading: Kant, *Groundwork*, section 2, pp. 36-51. again.

FRI: Absolutism. Reading: Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie Because of Philanthropic Concerns"; also Christine Korsgaard, "The Right to Lie: Kant on Dealing with Evil."

Week 9. May 23-29

MON: Kantian ethics applied—suicide and physician-assisted suicide.. J. David Velleman, "A Right of Self-Termination?"

WED: An attempt to reconcile common-sense deontology and consequentialism. Reading: Brad Hooker, *ideal Code, Real World*, chapters 1 & 2.

FRI: Is there any true or false, right or wrong in ethics? Reading: J. L. Mackie, "The Subjectivity of Values."

Week 10. May 30-June 5.

MON: **No class. Memorial Day Holiday.**

WED: Is there any true or false, right or wrong, in ethics? Reading: Ronald Dworkin, "You'd Better Believe It."

FRI: How, if at all, might we discover ethical truth, if there is any such thing? Reading: John Rawls, "Some Remarks on Moral Theory"; also Michael Huemer, "Revisionary Intuitionism."

Arneson's office hours: Mondays 1-2 & Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 in HSS 8057.

Arneson's email: rarneson@ucsd.edu