

## **PHIL 28 Ethics & Society II**

Syllabus  
Fall 2013  
Mon. & Wed. 9:00-9:50 am  
Peterson Hall  
Room 110

Andy Lamey  
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Office: HSS 8088  
Office Hours: Mon & Wed. 10:00-11:00 am

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### **Content**

This class is organized around the concept of human rights. It is designed to be accessible to students with no philosophical background. We will examine abstract theories related to human rights, both pro and con, as well as more concrete issues and controversies involving rights. Students who successfully complete this class will be well equipped to understand and participate in many prominent debates about rights, both within the United States and beyond.

### **Assessment**

Assessment for the class will consist of:

A short essay (1,000 words) worth 20 percent of the final grade, due 5:00 pm Tue. Oct. 22

A major essay (2000 words) worth 35 percent of the final grade, due 5:00 pm Tues. Nov. 19

An exam worth 45 percent of the final grade

A discussion section mark adjusting the final grade up or down by a maximum of 5 percent either way

How the discussion section mark is determined: students who have no more than two unexcused absences from discussion group will receive a mark of 0-5 based on the degree to which they show up to their section prepared and contribute to discussion. Students who have more than two unexcused absences will receive an automatic discussion group mark of -5 (negative five).

The maximum final class mark will be 100 percent.

### **Readings and Schedule**

All of the required readings are contained in the course reader prepared by Soft Reserves.

Week One: Historical Perspectives I (Sept 30.-Oct. 4)

John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 2-4, in David Wootton (ed.), *Political Writings of John Locke*, (New York: Penguin, 1993).

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I, in Donald Cress (ed.) *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Basic Political Writings*, Second Edition (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2011).

"The 'Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen' 1789," in Jeremy Waldron (ed.), *Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987).

Week Two: Historical Perspectives II (Oct. 7-11)

Jeremy Bentham, "Anarchical Fallacies," in Jeremy Waldron (ed.), *Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987).

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, in Jeremy Waldron (ed.), *Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987).

Karl Marx, "On The Jewish Question," in Jeremy Waldron (ed.), *Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987).

Week Three: Contemporary Rights Theory I (Oct.14-18)

John Rawls, "Some Remarks About Moral Theory," *A Theory of Justice*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971.

Thomas Pogge, "How Should Human Rights Be Conceived?" in Patrick Hayden (ed.), *The Philosophy of Human Rights* (St. Paul: Paragon House, 2001).

**Tuesday Oct. 22: Short Essay Due 5:00 pm**

Week Four: Contemporary Rights Theory II (Oct. 21-15)

Henry Shue, *Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence and U.S. Foreign Policy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980), Excerpts from Chapters One and Two.

David Beetham, "Human Rights and Democracy: A Multi-faceted Relationship," *Democracy and Human Rights* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 1999), Chapter Five.

Week Five: Torture (Oct 28-Nov.1)

Fritz Allhoff, "Terrorism and Torture", *International Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 17 (2003): 121-134.

Vitorrio Bufacchi and Jean Maria Arrigo, "Torture, Terrorism and the State: A Refutation of the Ticking-Bomb Argument," *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, 23 (2006): 355-73.

Week Six: Refugees I (Nov.4-8)

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism* (New York: Schocken, 2004), Book II Chapter 5, "The Decline of the Nation-State and the End of the Rights of Man."

Week Seven: Refugees II (Nov. 11-15)

Andy Lamey, "A Liberal Theory of Asylum," *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*, 11 (2012): 235-257.

**Tuesday Nov 19: Major Essay Due 5:00 pm**

Week Eight: Non-Government Organizations (Nov. 18-22)

Thomas Pogge (2007). "Moral Priorities for International Human Rights NGOs," in *Ethics in Action: The Ethical Challenges of International Human Rights Nongovernmental Organizations*, Daniel Bell and Jean-Marc Coircard, eds. Cambridge UP.

Week Nine: Universal Jurisdiction (Nov. 25-29)

Naomi Roht-Arriaza, *The Pinochet Effect: Transnational Justice in the Age of Human Rights* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), Chapter Two.

Week Ten: Animal Rights (Dec.2-6)

Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation* (New York: Random House, 1975), Chapter One.

Alasdair Cochrane. "From Human Rights to Sentient Rights." *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* ahead-of-print (2012): 1-21

**Week of Dec. 9-14: Final exam**

## **General Information**

### *Office Hours*

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours between 10:00-11:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. My skype ID is andy\_lamey. I am also available by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

### *Submission*

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

### *Extensions*

Students can obtain extensions 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). 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 graded and returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

### *Late Work*

For all short assignments (1,000 words or less), if your work is submitted late without an extension, your mark will be capped at a bare pass (50%). You will probably only receive minimal feedback on your work. Short assignments submitted more than 7 days late without an extension cannot be accepted at all without a medical certificate or similar documentation.

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more 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 and without extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive written or other feedback.

### *Lecture Slides*

Lecture slides will generally be available on TED an hour before class.

### *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 his or her discussion group.

### *Waitlist*

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