

PHIL 162 Contemporary Moral Issues

Syllabus

Fall 2014

Mon. & Wed. 11:00-1:50 pm

HSS

Room 1128A

Andy Lamey

alamey@ucsd.edu

(858) 534-9111 (no voicemail)

Office: HSS 7017

Office Hours: Mon 12:00-1:00 pm/Wed. 2:00-3:00 pm

Content

This course consists of an in-depth examination of two areas of contemporary moral controversy. They concern the ethics of border control, and issues within the broad area of bioethics that raise questions concerning harm and autonomy. We will begin with a brief introduction to normative theory. The course is designed to be accessible to students with minimal background in philosophy.

Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tue. Oct. 28 (25%)

A 2000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Tues. Nov. 25 (30%)

Final exam (30%)

Class participation (5% attendance* + 10% participation = 15%)

*More than three unexcused absences will result in an attendance mark of zero.

Readings and Schedule

All of the required readings will be available on TED.

Weeks Zero and One: Intro to Normative Theory I (Oct 2. + Oct. 6-10)

Mill, John Stuart. *Utilitarianism*, (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2001), Chapter Two.

John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice," in George Sher (ed.) *Moral Philosophy: Selected Readings* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987), 453-72.

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1971), 46-53.

Week Two: Intro to Normative Theory II (Oct. 13-17)

Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy State and Utopia* (New York: Basic Books, 1974), Chapter Seven.

Kymlicka, Will. *Liberalism, Community and Culture* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989), Chapters Eight and Nine.

Week Three: For Open Borders (Oct. 20-24)

Carens, Joseph H. "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders." *The Review of Politics* (1987): 251-273.

Huemer, Michael. "Is There a Right to Immigrate?" *Social Theory and Practice* 36.3 (2010): 429-461.

Week Four: Against Open Borders (Oct. 27-31)

Tuesday Oct. 28: First Essay Due 5:00 pm

Wellman, Christopher Heath. "Immigration and Freedom of Association." *Ethics* 119.1 (2008): 109-141.

Heath, Joseph. "Immigration, Multiculturalism, and the Social Contract." *Canadian Journal of Law & Jurisprudence* 10 (1997): 343.

Week Five: Amnesty and Distributive Justice (Nov. 3-7)

Carens, Joseph. "The Case for Amnesty." *Boston Review* 34.5-6 (2009): 7-11.

Cavallero, Eric. "An Immigration-pressure Model of Global Distributive Justice." *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 5.1 (2006): 97-127.

Week Six: Killing I (Nov. 10-14)

McMahan, Jeff. *The Ethics of Killing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), selections.

Week Seven: Killing II (Nov. 17-21)

Kittay, Eva Feder. "At the Margins of Moral Personhood." *Ethics* 116 (2005): 100-131.

Luper, Steven. *The Philosophy of Death*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009), selections.

Week Eight: Voluntary amputation (Nov. 24-28)

Tuesday Nov 25: Second Essay Due 5:00 pm

Bayne, Tim, and Neil Levy. "Amputees by Choice: Body Integrity Identity Disorder and the Ethics of Amputation." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 22.1 (2005): 75-86.

Müller, Sabine. "Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID) – Is the Amputation of Healthy Limbs Ethically Justified?" *The American Journal of Bioethics* 9.1 (2009): 36-43.

Week Nine: Deafness (Dec. 1-5)

Fahmy, Melissa Seymour. "On the Supposed Moral Harm of Selecting for Deafness." *Bioethics* 25.3 (2011): 128-136.

Sparrow, Robert. "Defending Deaf Culture: The Case of Cochlear Implants." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 13.2 (2005): 135-152.

Week Ten: Eugenics (Dec. 8-12)

Agar, Nicholas. "Liberal Eugenics." *Public Affairs Quarterly* 12.2 (1998): 137- 155.

Sparrow, Robert. "Liberalism and Eugenics." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 89.3 (2011): 499-517.

Week of Dec. 15-19: Final exam

General Information

Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I will be happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.

b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Submission

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

One-time Discretionary Essay Extension

I am happy to grant each student one essay extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. 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 returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

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 instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf>.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

Waitlist

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

The Exam

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.