

Philosophy 160 – Ethical theory

Fall 2015 MWF 12:00 - 12:50, WLH 2114

Prof. Saba Bazargan

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Office: HSS 8061

Course Description

This ethics course will focus on two closely related moral concepts: compensation and restitution. The right of compensation is a right to a *loss-based* recovery. For example, you are presumptively entitled to recovery from an individual who wrongfully damages or destroys your property. The right of restitution is a right to a *gain-based* recovery. For example, you are presumptively entitled to recovery from an individual who wrongfully uses your property in a way that benefits her. The purpose of this course is to a) analyze these concepts, b) determine what (if anything) morally grounds them in normative ethics, and c) apply them to historical and contemporary injustice with the aim of determine what, if anything, we owe as a result of perpetrating or benefitting from those injustices.

Grading

Tests - There will be two take-home exams. They will be worth 45% and 55% of your total grade, respectively. Both exams will consist of a set of essay questions. Each exam will be turned in electronically. The final exam will be due electronically on Thursday, December 10th at noon.

Attendance - I will not take attendance. However, it is in your interest to show up to class. The readings can be quite difficult; the purpose of lecture is to elucidate and supplement these readings. In addition, much of what will be on the test will be taken from lecture, and will not be covered in the readings.

Excuses - Extensions to an exam's due date will be granted for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Extensions will also be granted for very serious emergencies (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards. Otherwise, exams will be docked 6.6% for every day that they are late (including weekends).

Grading Scale:

<u>points</u>	<u>grade</u>
10	A
9	A-
8	B+
7	B
6	B-
5	C+
4	C
3	C-
2	D+
1	D
0	F

Reading

All readings will be available electronically on the class's TED page. There is not much reading for this course. But you are expected to read the material very carefully and more than once.

Academic Integrity

Any violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Details regarding what counts as cheating can be found here: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. Consult the site or an instructor if you have any doubts or questions regarding what counts as cheating. All research papers will be run through the Turnitin service, which will determine whether the author has plagiarized from other papers or from Internet sources.

Contact

I am available at my office hours (HSS 8061) every Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:30. If you cannot attend at that time, you should feel free to make an appointment by talking to me in person, or by contacting me by email.

Readings & Topics

We will cover the following topics and readings in the order presented below. We will spend as much time as necessary to master each of the readings. The list of readings might change, however.

On Responsibility

- Miller, David - 'Distributing Responsibilities'

On Compensation and Restitution

- Goodin, Robert - 'Theories of Compensation'
- Roberts, Rodney C. - 'The Counterfactual Conception of Compensation'
- Butt, Daniel - 'On Benefiting from Injustice'
- Haydar, Bashshar - 'Special Responsibility and the Appeal to Cost'
- Huseby, Robert - 'Should the Beneficiaries Pay?'
- Knight, Carl - 'Benefiting from Injustice and Brute Luck'
- Butt, Daniel - 'A Doctrine Quite New & Altogether Untenable: Defending the Beneficiary-Pays Principle'
- Goodin, Robert & Barry, Christian - 'Benefiting from the Wrongdoing of Others'
- Haydar, Bashshar & Øverland, Gerhard - 'The Normative Implications of Benefiting from Injustice'
- Pasternak, Avia - 'Voluntary Benefits from Wrongdoing'

Compensation and Restitution for Ongoing Injustice

- Thomson, Judith Jarvis - 'Preferential Hiring'
- Amdur, Robert - 'Compensatory Justice: The Question of Costs'
- Brooks, David - 'On Living in an Unjust Society'
- Pogge, Thomas - 'World Poverty and Human Rights'
- Anwander, Norbert - 'Contributing & Benefiting: Two Grounds for Duties to Victims of Injustice'
- Pogge, Thomas - 'Severe Poverty as a Violation of Negative Duties- A Reply to Critics'

Compensation and Restitution for Historical Injustice

- Sher, George - 'Ancient Wrongs and Modern Rights'
- Waldron, Jeremy - 'Superseding Historical Injustice'
- Kukathas, Chandran - 'Responsibility for Past Injustice: How to Shift the Burden'
- Wenar, David - 'Reparations for the Future'
- Butt, Daniel - 'Repairing Historical Wrongs and the End of Empire'
- Goodin, Robert E. - 'Disgorging the Fruits of Historical Wrongdoing'