PHIL 202: Responsibility & Excuse  
UCSD; Fall 2017  
Professor David O. Brink  
Syllabus

Here is a list of topics and readings in the order in which we will discuss them. Within a topic, do the readings in the order in which they are listed. Required readings are either (A) required or (B) recommended. Required readings are drawn from the required text — Joshua Dressler, *Understanding Criminal Law* — and from additional electronic sources, which can be found on the TED website [TED]. There may be minor modifications in the assigned readings during the term; you should check periodically to make sure that you are operating with the current version of the Syllabus. We will try to stick to the timetable of the Syllabus as best we can. If we fall behind, I'll try to find ways to make up ground. It is important to read the assignments on time, and it is helpful if you bring the texts we are discussing to class. Full publication details for these readings can be found on the Select Bibliography.

**Week 1. THE REACTIVE ATTITUDES, RESPONSIBILITY, ATTRIBUTABILITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

**Week 2. RETRIBUTIVISM AND THE FAIR OPPORTUNITY CONCEPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY**

**Week 3. CULPABILITY AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY**

**Week 4. RESPONSIBILITY AND STRUCTURAL INJUSTICE**
Week 5. SITUATIONISM AND RESPONSIBILITY

- (A) John Doris, *Lack of Character*, esp. chs. 2-4 and 7 [TED]; John Doris and Dominic Murphy, "From My Lai to Abu Ghraib: The Moral Psychology of Atrocity" [TED]; David O. Brink, "Situationism, Responsibility, and Fair Opportunity" [TED].
- (B) Dana Nelkin, "Freedom, Responsibility, and the Challenge of Situationism."

Week 6. INSANITY AND PSYCHOPATHY

- (B) David Shoemaker, *Responsibility from the Margins*, chs. 5-6.

Week 7. IMMATURETY

- (B) Elizabeth Scott and Scott Steinberg, “Blaming Youth.”

Week 8. ADDICTION

- (B) Gideon Yaffe, “Recent Work on Addiction and Responsible Agency” and *Addiction and Self-Control*, ed. Levy.

Week 9. PROVOCATION AND CRIMES OF PASSION


Week 10. PARTIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- (A) Joshua Dressler, *Understanding Criminal Law*, ch. 26; Dana Nelkin, “Difficulty and Degrees of Moral Praiseworthiness and Blameworthiness” [TED]; and David O. Brink, “Partial Responsibility and Excuse” [TED].
- (B) Stephen Morse, “Undiminished Confusion in Diminished Capacity” and “Diminished Rationality, Diminished Responsibility.”