

Philosophy 161 – Topics in History of Ethics

Spring 2017, Tu Th 11-12:20, YORK 4050a

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Course Description

The purpose of this course is to investigate the development of Utilitarianism in the writings of the British Moralists from the 17th century through the 19th century. By the end of the course you will have substantial grasp of how modern Utilitarianism emerged from a general concern about the role that happiness plays in moral psychology, ethical theory, and political theory.

Grading

Essays - There will be three take-home essays. They will be worth 30%, 30%, and 40% of your total grade, respectively. Each exam will consist of a set of short-answer questions from which you will be required to answer a certain number of them. All exams will be turned in electronically. Essay due dates are TBD.

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.

Quizzes - Every session I'll ask questions drawn from the previous session's lecture. You will be given several minutes to confer with your neighbors prior to volunteering an answer. These quizzes will not be graded.

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 one point 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 are available electronically on the class's TritonEd page. All of the reading consist of primary texts. The readings are old and consequently difficult to absorb. But as we move forward, the readings will get modern and hence easier to understand. Part of the purpose of lecture is to help you comprehend and analyze the reading. Note that for any given author, the chapters assigned won't necessarily be in order.

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: Thursday at 1:00-2:30. If you cannot attend at that time, feel free to make an appointment by talking to me in person or by contacting me by email.

Readings & Topics

This list is tentative and incomplete. Readings will be added under 'Classical Utilitarianism'.

PRE-CLASSICAL UTILITARIANISM

Richard Cumberland (1631–1718)

Survey of Cumberland's system-

"A Treatise of the Laws of Nature" (1672)

'The Introduction'

reading 1a..... §I-VI, IX, XXIV (first ¶), XVI (first three ¶)

Cumberland's account of man and society-

"A Treatise of the Laws of Nature"

'A Philosophical Inquiry in the Laws of Nature'

Ch. II. Of Human Nature, and Right Reason

reading 2a..... §I, VIII, XIX, XX

Ch. III. Of Natural Good

reading 2b..... §II, IV

Ch. V. Of the Law of Nature, and its Obligation

reading 2c..... §XLVII, LVI

Cumberland's doctrine of the good-

"A Treatise of the Laws of Nature"

'A Philosophical Inquiry in the Laws of Nature'

Ch. III. Of Natural Good

reading 3a..... §I

Ch. IV. Of the Practical Dictates of Reason

reading 3b..... §I

Ch. I. Of the Nature of Things

reading 3c..... §V, XX, VI, XIX

Ch. V. Of the Law of Nature, and its Obligation

reading 3d..... §VIII, IX, XIII, XLII

Ch. II. Of Human Nature, and Right Reason

reading 3e..... §IV, XXVIII

Cumberland on the laws of nature-

"A Treatise of the Laws of Nature"

'The Introduction'

reading 4a..... §XXVII

'A Philosophical Inquiry in the Laws of Nature'

Ch. V. Of the Law of Nature, and its Obligation

reading 4b..... §I, XII, XLII

Ch. VI. Of those Things which are Contain'd in the General Law of Nature

reading 4c..... §I, VII, VIII

Ch. I. Of the Nature of Things

reading 4d..... §XXIII, XXIV

Anthony Ashley-Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury (1671–1713)

"An Inquiry Concerning Virtue or Merit" (1711)

reading 5a.....Book I, Part 2, §1, 'Parts and Wholes'

reading 5b.....Book II, Part I, §3, 'Turning the Passions'

reading 5c.....Book II, Part 2, *Affections and Happiness*

"Freedom of Wit and Humor" Vol. 1 (1709)

reading 5d.....Part III, §2, §3

"The Moralists - A Philosophical Rhapsody" (1709)

reading 5e.....Part II, §4

Francis Hutcheson (1694–1746)

“An Inquiry into the Original of Our Ideas of Beauty and Virtue”

Treatise II: ‘An Inquiry Concerning the Origin of our Ideas of Virtue or Moral Good’ (1726)

reading 6a.....Preface, §I (#1-4, #8), §III (#6, #8, #11), §IV (#1, #7), §V (#2), §VI (#1), §VII (#6, first ¶)

George Berkeley (1685-1753)

“Passive Obedience” (1712)

reading 7a.....§V-IX, XI, XII, XIII

“Alciphron or The Minute Philosopher” (1732)

reading 7b.....Dialogue 2, Sec. XIV

John Gay (1699–1745)

“Preliminary Dissertation: Concerning the Fundamental Principle of Virtue or Morality” (1732)

reading 8a.....§I-IV

David Hume (1711-1776)

“Treatise of Human Nature” (1738)

reading 9a.....Book III, Part I, §II

reading 9b.....Book III, Part II, §I

reading 9c.....Book III, Part III, §I

reading 9d.....Book II, Part I, §XI (¶3-6)

Abraham Tucker (1705-1774)

Tucker’s account of moral psychology-

“Light of Nature Pursued” (1768)

Vol. 1, 'Human Nature'

reading 10a..... Ch. I §2; VI §1, §5; IX §1-3; X §3; XVI §1; XVIII §1; XIX §2; XXI §6, §10; XXII §1

Tucker’s ethical system-

“Light of Nature Pursued”

Vol. 1, 'Human Nature'

reading 10b..... Ch. XXIV §13; XXVII §2, §8; XXII §11, §12; XXX §1; XXXII §6; XXXIII §5; XXXIV §6

Vol. 2, 'Theology',

reading 10c..... Ch. XXXI §4, §5

William Paley (1743-1805)

“Principles of Moral and Political Philosophy” (1785)

reading 11a.....Book I, Ch. 5, 6, 7 (intro)

reading 11b.....Book II, Ch. 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

reading 11c.....Book III, Part II, Ch. 5

CLASSICAL UTILITARIANISM

Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832)

(TBA)

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873)

(TBA)

Henry Sidgwick (1838-1900)

(TBA)