

Philosophy 160

Ethical Theory

Prof. Michael Hardimon
 H&SS 8084
 822-0473
 mhardimon@ucsd.edu

H&SS 1128A
 MWF 11:00-11:50
 Office Hour M 12:00-1:00

Winter 2017: Utilitarianism and Deontology

The aim of the course is to develop an understanding of the nature of modern ethical theory by looking at two great systematic accounts of the moral principles governing what we ought to do: the utilitarian theory of Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832) & John Stuart Mill (1806-1873) and the deontological theory of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804).

Class Schedule

- Section I: Utilitarianism, the Early Formulation: Jeremy Bentham (4 Classes)

Text: *The Principles of Morals and Legislation* [1789]

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday | Jan 9 | First Meeting | |
| Wednesday | Jan 11 | Utility (1) | Chapters I,II |
| Friday | Jan 13 | Utility (2) | Chapters III-V |
| Monday | Jan 16 | MLK Day Holiday | No Class |
| Wednesday | Jan 18 | Action (1) | Chapters VII, VIII |
| Friday | Jan 20 | Action (2) | Chapters X-XI |

- Section II: Utilitarianism, the Great Revision: John Stuart Mill (9 Classes)

Text: *Utilitarianism* [1861]

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Monday | Jan 23 | General Remarks | Chapter 1 |
| Wednesday | Jan 25 | What Utilitarianism is (1) | Chapter 2 |
| Friday | Jan 27 | What Utilitarianism is (2) | Chapter 2 |
| Monday | Jan 30 | What Utilitarianism is (3) | Chapter 2 |
| Wednesday | Feb 1 | Ultimate Sanction (1) | Chapter 3 |
| Friday | Feb 3 | Ultimate Sanction (2) | Chapter 3 |
| Monday | Feb 6 | Proof (1) | Chapter 4 |
| Wednesday | Feb 8 | Proof (2) | Chapter 4 |
| Friday | Feb 10 | Justice and Utility | Chapter 5 |

First Paper: In class Friday February 10

- Section III. Deontology, the Kantian Alternative: Immanuel Kant (14 Classes)

Text: *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* [1785]

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monday | Feb 13 | The Good Will | 387-397 |
| Wednesday | Feb 15 | Actions from Duty | 398-405 |
| Friday | Feb 17 | Imperatives | 406-420 |
| Monday | Feb 20 | President's Day Holiday | No class |
| Wednesday | Feb 22 | Formula of Universal Law (1) | 420-421 |
| Friday | Feb 24 | Formula of Universal Law (2) | 422-427 |
| Monday | Feb 27 | Formula of Humanity (1) | 428-431 |
| Wednesday | Mar 1 | Formula of Humanity (2) | 429 |
| Friday | Mar 3 | Formula of Humanity (3) | 430-431 |
| Monday | Mar 6 | Autonomy and the Kingdom of Ends (1) | 431-433 |
| Wednesday | Mar 8 | Autonomy and the Kingdom of Ends (2) | 434-437 |
| Friday | Mar 10 | Autonomy and the Kingdom of Ends (3) | 437-445 |
| Monday | Mar 13 | Freedom (1) | 446-448 |
| Wednesday | Mar 15 | Freedom (2) | 449-453 |
| Friday | Mar 17 | Freedom (3) | 454-463 |

Second Paper: In class Friday March 3

Third Paper: In class Friday March 17

- **Review Session:** Friday 17 March 5:00-7:00 pm
- **Final Exam:** Monday 20 March 11:30-2:30 am/pm

Required Texts

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---|------------------|
| Bentham | | <i>The Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> | Prometheus Books |
| Mill | Roger Crisp ed. | <i>Utilitarianism</i> | Oxford |
| Kant | Mary Gregor trans. | <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> | Cambridge |

Requirements

Regular attendance, class participation, two 2-page papers, one 5-page paper, final examination. **All work must be completed to receive a passing final grade.**

Papers

Topics will be assigned in class. Due dates subject to revision. Students are required to hand in a hard copy in class on due date *and* to submit an identical copy electronically to Turnitin via TritonEd.

Extensions will be granted when circumstances warrant *provided arrangements are made with the instructor at least 24 hours in advance.* There are no automatic extensions. It is better to ask for an extension sooner rather than later. Except in unusual circumstances (e.g. medical emergencies, a disaster that strikes the student or the immediate family), unexcused late papers are subject to the penalty of being dropped at least one letter grade e.g. B>C.

Interpretations or ideas borrowed, directly or indirectly, from secondary sources or other people (apart from the instructor but including fellow students) must be footnoted. Any use of web-based material must be footnoted. Anything else is plagiarism and will be treated as such. Students are encouraged to discuss paper topics but must write the papers **alone**.

Students are responsible for making and keeping an extra copy of their paper in case the original is lost.

Grade Weights

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 2-Page Papers | 30% (15+15) |
| 5- Paper | 30% |
| Final | 40 % |
| Total | 100% |

Participation 10 possible bonus points. Class participation can only bring grades *up*, never down
 Bonus points kick in at the half-grade margin (e.g. between a C+ and B-)

Grade Range

Papers in Philosophy 160 are not graded on a curve. Each student can in principle receive an A. The same holds true for less desirable grades.

The minimal standard of performance for a grade of P shall be the same as that for a grade of C- (including a C- on the final).

Additional Information

Students are expected to have read the material in advance, to **bring the text** and to be prepared discuss it in class.

The Academic Honor Code must be observed in this course. Cheating will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating will receive an automatic F for the course and be referred to the ADHB for disciplinary action.

If accommodations are needed for a disability or religious reasons, please notify the instructor during the first class period or as soon as possible.