Phil 13 Introduction to Ethics

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Syllabus
Fall 2018
MWF. 1:00-1:50 pm
Warren Lecture Hall
Room 2005

1. Overview

This class is an introduction to moral philosophy. It is divided into three sections. In the first we will examine an area of moral theory known as metaethics. Metaethical theories attempt to answer general questions about the nature of morality. They include whether morality depends on God’s will, whether moral truths are culturally relative and whether morality is reducible to self-interest.

Section two addresses normative ethics, or the branch of moral theory that seeks to outline our ethical duties and obligations. A representative question in this area of moral theory would be whether it is permissible to kill one person to save five others. Our third and final section addresses the relationship between morality and evolution. Here we will examine what, if anything, can be learned about human morality through the study of primates.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching Assistant</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emily Petkas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:epetkas@ucsd.edu">epetkas@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>11:00-1:00p Th.</td>
<td>Mandeville</td>
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<td>Coffee Cart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Stratmann</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jtstratm@ucsd.edu">jtstratm@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>2:00-4:00p Mon</td>
<td>H&amp;SS 7054</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Thresher</td>
<td><a href="mailto:athreshe@ucsd.edu">athreshe@ucsd.edu</a></td>
<td>2:00-3:00p MW</td>
<td>H&amp;SS 7054</td>
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2. Assessment

A short assignment of 500 words due 5:00 pm Tuesday October 16 (10%)

A 1,200-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday November 6 (30%)

Lecture clicker sessions (10%) In-class quizzes (10%) Exam essay (30%)

Discussion section grade (5% attendance † + 5% participation = 10%)

†More than two unexcused absences = a section attendance grade of zero.
The final exam will be replaced by a second essay. However, students who receive a passing grade on the short essay and first essay will have the option of submitting two final essays. If students exercise this option and thus write three essays in total, the two essays with the highest grades will count toward their final class grade: the one with the worst grade will be disregarded.

3. Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the class reader and the following book:


The book is available at the UCSD bookstore. The course reader is available for sale at Cal Copy, located at 3251 Holiday Court, Unit # 103. Cal Copy is located behind the Mobil gas station directly south of campus between Villa La Jolla Dr & Villa Norte. See http://www.calcopy.net/# for more info.

A copy of the class reader and the book will be on reserve at the library.

0. Week of September 24: Intro to Phil 13 and Cultural Relativism

   No sections meet this week.

1. Week of October 1: and Cultural Relativism


   Wednesday and Friday Classes: *Crimes and Misdemeanors* Parts I and II (Woody Allen, 1989)

2. Week of October 8: Morality and Religion
Monday Class: *Crimes and Misdemeanors* Part III


3. Week of October 15: Egoism


**Short assignment due Tuesday October 16 5:00 pm.**

4. Week of October 22: Utilitarianism


5: Week of October 29: Deontology


6. Week of November 5: The Doctrine of Double Effect


**First Essay Due: Tuesday November 6 5:00 pm.**

7. Week of November 12: Virtue Ethics


8. Week of November 19: Contractarianism


9. Week of November 26: Morality and Evolution I


10. Week of December 3: Morality and Evolution II


**Final Exam: Week of December 10:** See exam schedule on Tritonlink.

**4. General Information**

4a Office Hours

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

4b Email Policy

I am 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.

4c One-time Discretionary TA Extensions

Teaching assistants can grant each student one extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension your TA needs to receive your request before noon on the day the assessment 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 TA extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

4d Late Work

For all assignments handed in late without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a 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 professor. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

4e Regrading

Students unhappy with their grade for a class essay can apply to have it remarked. Students first need to arrange a face-to-face meeting with their grader to discuss the basis for the original grade. Please note that email or other electronic forms of communication are not an acceptable substitute and no regrading will occur without an initial face-to-face meeting. If the student and grader come to an agreement on the merit of the initial grade, or on an adjusted grade resulting from their meeting, no further student action is required. If the student still prefers a regrade he or she should email me a clean copy of the original essay, without the original grader’s grade or comments. The essay will then go to a second grader unfamiliar with the original grade for regrading.
In order for a regrade to occur I need to receive the clean copy within two weeks of the original essay grade being released or before the exam, whichever is sooner. Whatever grade the second marker gives the essay will be the final grade, even if it is lower than the original grade.

NB: there is no option to regrade exams or do assignments for bonus grades.

4f Accommodation for Disability

I am happy to provide accommodation to students with disabilities, whether physical or mental. Students requesting accommodations should 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).

4g 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/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2

4h Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in lecture. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

4i Waitlist

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

4j Exams

All students except those with an OSD exemption are required to take the exam on the scheduled day and time.