

Phil 27 Ethics and Society

Syllabus
Spring 2014
MW 10:00-11:00 am
Peterson Hall
Room 108

Andy Lamey
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Office: HSS 8088
Office Hours: MW 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Overview

The class will investigate ethical and political issues arising out of *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, by Siddhartha Mukherjee. We will read Mukherjee's prize-winning book alongside classical and contemporary readings in ethics and political philosophy. We will begin by examining four prominent moral theories, relativism, utilitarianism, deontology and virtue ethics, coming to understand each by applying it to a different medical issue. We will then take a more focused look at particular areas of moral concern, involving obligations to the distant needy, business ethics and the nature of justice. A third and final area of inquiry will be the role of value-judgements in medicine, as they pertain to evidence-based medicine, voluntary amputation and the concepts of health and disease.

Assessment

Assessment for the class will consist of:

Two 1,500-word essays, the first due 5:00 pm Tuesday April 22 and the second due 5:00 pm Tuesday May 20, first worth 20%, second 25% of the final mark

An in-class midterm on Wednesday April 30 worth 20% of the final mark

An exam during finals week worth 25% of the final mark

Class attendance and participation each worth 5% of the final mark. NB: Students who have more than two unexcused absences from discussion group will receive an attendance mark of zero out of five.

Special Events

The Emperor of All Maladies is the subject of several special events at UCSD and other San Diego institutions during the 2013-14 academic year. These include a Jeopardy! competition involving teams from several San Diego universities (April 23). Students from Phil 27 Spring quarter are eligible to participate in the

tournament. Those who do so will receive a bonus mark on their final class grade (for a maximum class grade of 100%). This syllabus will be supplemented with class announcements as further details about the tournament becomes available.

Readings and Schedule

The Emperor of All Maladies should be available at the bookstore. All other readings will be available on TED.

Week One: Course Intro and Cultural Relativism

James Rachels and Stuart Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, Sixth Edition (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2010), pp. 14-31.

Week Two: Utilitarianism

J. S. Mill, *On Liberty and Utilitarianism* (London: David Campbell, 1992), pp. 117-136.

Siddhartha Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* (New York: Scribner, 2010), pp. 93-104, 171-173, 395-397.

Week Three: Deontology

Immanuel Kant, "the Good Will and the Categorical Imperative," in *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems*. Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp 102-113.

Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 21-36, 321-329, 315-320, 412-429.

Week Four: Virtue Ethics

Rosalind Hursthouse, "Normative Virtue Ethics," in *Ethical Theory: An Anthology*, Second Edition. Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Chichester: John Wiley & sons, 2013): 645-52.

Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 135-138, 223-226, 306-308.

Tuesday April 22: First Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week Five: The Distant Needy

Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality," in *World Hunger and Moral*

Obligation, First Edition. W. Aiken and H. LaFollette eds. (Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1977), pp. 22-37.

Peter Singer, "Heartwarming causes are nice, but let's give to charity with our heads," *The Washington Post*, December 19, 2013.

Optional: re-read Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, 93-104.

Wednesday April 30 In-class closed-book midterm

Week Six: Health Care and Justice

Elizabeth Anderson, "What Is the Point of Equality?" *Ethics* 109 (1999): 287-337.

Week Seven: Business Ethics and Tobacco

Milton Friedman, "The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase its Profits," in *Corporate Ethics and Corporate Governance*, Walther Ch. Zimmerli, Klaus Richter, Markus Holzinger eds. (Berlin: Springer, 2007), pp. 173-78.

Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 250-75.

Week Eight: Evidence-Based Medicine

John Worrall. "Evidence in Medicine and Evidence-based Medicine." *Philosophy Compass* 2 (2007): 981-1022.

Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 128-32, 237-49.

Tuesday May 20 Second Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week Nine: Voluntary Amputation

Bayne, Tim, and Neil Levy. "Amputees by Choice: Body Integrity Identity Disorder and the Ethics of Amputation." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 22.1 (2005): 75-86.

Optional: reread Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 21-36, 321-329, 315-320, 412-429.

Week Ten: Health, Disease and Value

Scott DeVito. "On the Value-neutrality of the Concepts of Health and Disease: Unto the Breach Again." *The Journal of Medicine and Philosophy* 25.5 (2000): 539-567.

Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 227-234.

Week of June 9 Final exam

General Information

Office Hours

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or, if you prefer, contacting me via Skype. Just drop me an email so I know to go on Skype, where my ID is andy_lamey. I am also available immediately after class or by appointment outside. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I will be happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I will not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses.

Please note that there are three 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 for the release of exam results by email.
- c) 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.

Submission

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

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.

Late Work

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent 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 instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

Remarking

Students unhappy with their grade for a class essay can apply to have it remarked. Students first needs to arrange a face to face meeting with their marker 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 remarking will occur without an initial face to face meeting. If the student and marker come to an agreement on the merit of the initial mark, or on an adjusted mark resulting from their meeting, no further student action is required. If the student still prefers a remark he or she should email me a clean copy of the original essay, without the original marker's grade or comments. The essay will then go to a second grader unfamiliar with the original grade for remarking.

In order for a remark to occur I need to receive the clean copy within three weeks of the original essay mark being released, or before the exam, whichever is sooner. Whatever grade the second marker gives the essay will be the final mark, *even if it is lower than the original marker's grade.*

Note that there is no option to regrade exams or any assignments for bonus marks.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must 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) <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (web)

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/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf>.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

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 his or her discussion group.

Waitlist

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

Exams and Midterms

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

