

Phil 27 Ethics and Society

Syllabus
Winter 2014
MW 11:00-12:00 pm
Peterson Hall
Room 110

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Office Hours: Mon & Wed. 2:30-3:30 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 ask what moral responsibilities businesses and individuals have to aid in the fights against cancer, malaria and other diseases. A third area of concern will be the role value-judgements play in shaping our understanding of such scientific subjects as evidence-based medicine and the nature of disease. Finally we will ask what forms of public health care are entailed by two opposing theories of justice, luck egalitarianism and democratic equality.

Assessment

Assessment for the class will consist of:

A weekly online quiz about the class readings worth 10% of the final mark, due each week five minutes before our first class (normally Mondays at 10:55 am)

A short essay (1,000 words) worth 15% of the final mark, due Tues. Jan. 28

A major essay (2000 words) worth 25% of the final mark, due Mon. Feb. 24

An exam worth 40% of the final mark

Discussion group attendance and participation worth 10% of the final mark

A bonus mark assignment potentially worth 2.5% of the final mark, due Friday Feb. 28 (see special events, below)

The highest possible class mark will be 100%.

Special Events

The Emperor of All Maladies is the subject of several upcoming special events at

UCSD and other San Diego institutions, including a talk at UCSD by Mukherjee (Tentative date: Feb. 25) and a Jeopardy! competition involving teams from several San Diego universities (April 29). Students who are able to attend Mukherjee's talk and write a well-composed half-page essay about it will receive a 2.5% bonus mark added to their final class grade. While the talk is free, students interested in attending should register online as soon as possible at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-emperor-of-all-maladies-a-biography-of-cancer-tickets-9349567809>

Please note that if Mukherjee's talk is cancelled, the bonus assignment will also be cancelled. This syllabus will be supplemented with class announcements as further details about both events become available.

Reading Quizzes

Each week a quiz will be available on TED containing four multiple choice questions about that week's readings. Each weekly quiz will be worth 1.4% of the final class grade. Students who correctly answer at least three of the four questions will receive full marks for that week. Students who correctly answer less than three questions will receive a mark of zero for that week. Students are expected to complete the quiz for seven of the ten weeks during which it will be available ($7 \times 1.4 = 10\%$ of the final class grade). While TED will be configured to permit taking the quiz more than seven times, only the first seven attempts will count toward a mark.

Readings and Schedule

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

Week of January Six: 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 of January 13: 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 of January 20: 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.

Week of January 27: 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 January 28: Short Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week of February 3: 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 of February 10: Business Ethics and Pharmaceuticals

Thomas Pogge, "Human Rights and Global Health: A Research Program," *Metaphilosophy* 36 (2005): 182-209.

Mukherjee, *The Emperor of All Maladies*, pp. 315-320, 412-429.

Week of February 17: 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.

Week of February 24: 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.

Monday Feb. 24 Major Essay Due 5:00 pm

Tuesday Feb. 25 (tentative) Mukherjee event at UCSD (evening)

Friday Feb. 28 Mukherjee event bonus assignment Due 11:59 pm

Week of March 3: 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 March 10: Health Care and Justice

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

Week of March. 17-21: Final exam

General Information

Office Hours

I will be keeping both normal and electronic office hours between 2:30-3:30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. 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.

Extensions

Students can obtain 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). 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 graded and returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Late Work

For all short assignments (1,000 words or less), if your work is submitted late without an extension, your mark will be capped at a bare pass (60%). You will not receive comments on your work. Short assignments submitted more than 7 days late without an extension cannot be accepted at all without a medical certificate or similar documentation.

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.

I need to receive the clean copy within three weeks of the original essay mark being released, or before the exam, whichever is sooner. If I receive the student's request on time I will arrange for a second marker to grade it. 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 class. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in his or her discussion group.

Waitlist

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