

PHIL 28 Ethics & Society II

Syllabus
Fall 2015
Tu.-Thu. 12:30-1:30 pm
Peterson Hall
Room 108

Andy Lamey
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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: Tu.-Thu. 1:30-2:30 pm

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Location</i>
Blythe Greene	bagreene@ucsd.edu	Mon. 12:00-1:00p	H&SS 7043
Ryan Stringer	rstringer@ucsd.edu	Tues. 4:00-6:00p	H&SS 7054
Dean Tracy	datracy@ucsd.edu	Tues. 2:30-3:30p	EBU3B 1124
Jason Winning	rwinning@ucsd.edu	W12:00-1:00p/F:1:00-2:00p	H&SS 7059
Andrew Wong	adw@ucsd.edu	Mon. 6:00-8:00p	H&SS 8037

Content

This class is organized around the concept of distributive justice. How should economic goods be distributed in society? How much economic inequality should be permitted? To what degree should economic outcomes be the result of market vs. non-market forces? To what degree, if at all, is a person's community or cultural membership relevant to determining what resources he or she should possess? These are some of the central questions we will investigate. Theories we will examine include utilitarianism, liberalism, libertarianism, communitarianism, luck egalitarianism, the capabilities approach and sufficientarianism. A recurring focus of examination will be how such theories bear on contemporary questions and controversies concerning economic justice. The class is designed to be accessible to students with minimal philosophical background.

Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Wednesday October 21 (20%)

A 2,000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Wednesday November 18 (20%)

Lecture clicker sessions (15%) Mid-term (15%) Final exam (20%)

Discussion section mark (5% attendance + 5% participation = 10%)

Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of the class reader, which will be available at Soft Reserves before the first day of class, as well as the following book, which will be available at the UCSD bookstore:

Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Both Kymlicka's book and the reader are on reserve at the library.

Week Zero: Introduction to Phil 28 (September 24)

Optional Reading: Kymlicka, Will (2002). "Introduction," *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 1-9.

Week One: Utilitarianism (September 28-Oct. 1)

Kymlicka, Will. "Utilitarianism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 10-52.

Week Two: Liberalism I: Justice as Fairness (October 5-8)

Rawls, John. "A Theory of Justice," in George Sher (ed.) *Moral Philosophy: Selected Readings* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987), pp. 453-72.

Kymlicka, Will. "Liberal Equality," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 53-74, 88-96.

Week Three: Libertarianism (October 12-16)

Nozick, Robert. "Distributive Justice," *Anarchy State and Utopia* (New York: Basic Books, 1974), pp. 149-82.

Kymlicka, Will. "Libertarianism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 102-27.

Optional: Taylor, Charles. "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty," *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical Papers Volume Two* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 187-210.

Week Four: The Capabilities Approach (October 19-23)

Sen, Amartya. "Freedom and the Foundations of Justice" (excerpt) and "Poverty as Capability Deprivation," *Development as Freedom* (New York: Anchor, 2000) pp. 72-110.

Nussbaum, Martha. "Capabilities as Fundamental Entitlements: Sen and Social justice," *Feminist Economics* 9.2-3 (2003): pp. 33-59.

First essay due: Wednesday October 21, 5:00 pm

Week Five: Contractarianism (October 26-30)

Gauthier, David. "The Initial Bargaining Position: Rights and the Proviso," *Morals By Agreement* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 190-232.

Gauthier, David. "Persons, Peoples, Generations," *Morals By Agreement*, pp. 268-305.

Optional: Kymlicka, Will. "Libertarianism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 128-38.

Week Six: Communitarianism (November 2-6)

Taylor. Charles. "Atomism," *Philosophy and the Human Sciences: Philosophical Papers Volume Two*, pp. 211-229.

Kymlicka, Will. "Communitarianism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 208-10, 244-73.

Midterm: Thursday November 5.

Week Seven Culture and Distributive Justice (November 9-13)

Kymlicka, Will. "Multiculturalism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 327-65.

Appiah, Anthony. "The Trouble with Culture" (excerpt), *The Ethics of Identity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), 120-38.

Week Eight: Liberalism II: Equality of Resources (November 16-20)

Dworkin, Ronald. "Equality of Resources," *Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2002), 65-119.

Kymlicka, Will. "Liberalism," *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 75-88.

Second essay due: Wednesday November 18, 5:00 pm

Week Nine: Luck egalitarianism (November 23-25)

Cohen, G.A. "On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice," *Ethics* 99.4 (1989): pp. 906-44.

Week Ten: Sufficiencyarianism (November 30-December 5)

Sher, George. "Coping With Contingency" and "Enough is Enough," *Equality for Inegalitarians* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 112-156.

General Information

Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or contact 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 by appointment outside my office hours. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

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.

Submission

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

One-time Discretionary Essay Extension

Each student can have one essay extension 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 essay 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 essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

For assignments 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 returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

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/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

Waitlist

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

The Exam

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