

Phil 27 Ethics and Society

Syllabus
Winter 2015
MW 11:00-11:50 am
Peterson Hall
Room 110

Andy Lamey
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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: MW 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

Overview

The class will introduce students to ethical philosophy, both theoretical and applied. The class is divided into three sections. In the first we will examine four prominent theories of morality: relativism, deontology, utilitarianism and virtue ethics. In the second section we will take a more applied approach and examine ethical questions that arise in the realms of business, medicine and charitable giving. Our third and final section continues the applied focus and examines ethical questions in one particular domain, that of re-engineering living things. Different forms of such re-engineering we will look at include the creation of “de-enhanced” food animals, cloning extinct species and geoengineering. The class presupposes no previous background in philosophy, and students in all majors can do well if they make an effort.

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sindhuja Bhakthavatsalam	sbhaktha@ucsd.edu	MW 12:00-1:00p	Mandeville Coffee Cart
Daniel Burnston	dbursto@ucsd.edu	M 12:00-2:00p	HSS 7039
Travis Chamberlain	t1chambe@ucsd.edu	W 1:00-2:00p	HSS 8089
Aaron Finley	afinley@ucsd.edu	M 12:00-2:00p	HSS 8037
Constance Sutter	csutter@ucsd.edu	W 12:00-1:00p	HSS 8020

Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Thurs. Jan 29 (25%)

A 2000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Thurs. Feb. 26 (25%)

In-class clicker quizzes (15%)

Final exam (25%)

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

*More than two unexcused absences will result in an attendance mark of zero.

Readings and Schedule

All readings will be available on TED.

Week One: Course Intro and Cultural Relativism

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

Week Two: Deontology

Kant, Immanuel, "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.

Week Three: Utilitarianism

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

Week Four: Virtue Ethics

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

Doris, John, and Stephen Stich. "As a Matter of Fact: Empirical Perspectives on Ethics," in *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy*, Frank Jackson and Michael Smith eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005): 114-152.

NB: Students are only required to read the first ten pages.

Thursday January 29: First Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week Five: The Distant Needy

Singer, Peter, "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.

Murphy, Liam, "The Demands of Beneficence," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 22 (1993): 267-92.

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

Week Six: Business Ethics

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.

Martin, Roger, *Fixing the Game: Bubbles, Crashes, and What Capitalism Can Learn From the NFL* (Boston, Harvard Business Press, 2011), selections.

Week Seven: 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.

Müller, Sabine. "Body Integrity Identity Disorder (BIID) – Is the Amputation of Healthy Limbs Ethically Justified?" *The American Journal of Bioethics* 9.1 (2009): 36- 43.

Week Eight: Engineering Animals

Singer, Peter, *Animal Liberation* (New York: Random House, 1975), Chapter One.

Shriver, Adam. "Knocking Out Pain in Livestock: Can Technology Succeed Where Morality has Stalled?" *Neuroethics* 2 (2009): 115-124.

Schaefer, G. Owen, and Julian Savulescu. "The Ethics of Producing In Vitro Meat." *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 31 (2014): 188-202.

Thursday February 26 Second Essay Due 5:00 pm

Week Nine: Geoengineering

Rayner, Steve, et al. "The Oxford Principles of Geoengineering," (2011). Available at <http://www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/oxford-principles/principles/>?

Powell, Russell, et al., "The Ethics of Geoengineering: Working Draft," (2010). Available at http://www.practicaethics.ox.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0013/21325/Ethics_of_Geoengineering_Working_Draft.pdf

Hamilton, Clive, "The Ethical Foundations of Climate Engineering," in *Climate Change Engineering: Philosophical Perspectives, Legal Issues and Governance Frameworks*, Wil Burns and Andrew Strauss, eds. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2013), pp. 39-58.

Week Ten: De-extinction

Cottrell, Sariah, Jamie L. Jensen, and Steven L. Peck. "Resuscitation and resurrection: The ethics of cloning cheetahs, mammoths, and Neanderthals." *Life Sciences Society and Policy* 10 (2014): 1-17.

Pina-Aguilar, Raul E., et al. "Revival of Extinct Species Using Nuclear Transfer: Hope for the Mammoth, True for the Pyrenean ibex, But is it Time for "Conservation Coning"?" *Cloning and Stem Cells* 11.3 (2009): 341-346.

Week of March 16 Final exam

General Information

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.

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 will be submitted electronically. Hard copies are not required.

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 professor. 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 complete 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), 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 discussion group.

Waitlist

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

Exams

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