

# Phil 13 Introduction to Ethics

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

Andy Lamey  
alamey@ucsd.edu  
(858) 534-9111 (no voicemail)  
Office: HSS 7017  
Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-4:00 pm

## 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.

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Location</i>
Emily Petkas	epetkas@ucsd.edu	11:00-1:00p Th.	Mandeville Coffee Cart
Joseph Stratmann	jtstratm@ucsd.edu	2:00-4:00p Mon	H&SS 7054
Ann Thresher	athreshe@ucsd.edu	2:00-3:00p MW	H&SS 7054

## 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:

Stephen Macedo and Josiah Ober eds. *Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006).

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

Nussbaum, Martha. "Judging Other Cultures: The Case of Genital Mutilation." *Sex and Social Justice* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999): 118-29.

Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism." *The Elements of Moral Philosophy, Eighth Edition* (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2010): 15-32.

Prinz, Jesse. "Morality is a Culturally Conditioned Response," *Philosophy Now* 82 (2011): 6-9.

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

Conard, Mark. "The Indifferent Universe: Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors*." *Movies and the Meaning of Life: Philosophers Take on Hollywood*. Kimberly Ann Blessing and Paul Tudico, eds. (Chicago: Open Court: 2005): 113-124.

Plato. "Euthyphro." *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems, Second Edition*, Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012): 63-71.

Adams, Robert Merrihew. "A Modified Divine Command Theory of Ethical Wrongness." *Philosophy of Religion: An Anthology*, Charles Taliaferro and Paul J. Griffiths Eds. (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003): 462-76.

3. Week of October 15: Egoism

Rand, Ayn. "The Ethics of Emergencies." *The Ethical Life: Fundamental Readings in Ethics and Moral Problems, Second Edition*, Russ Shafer-Landau ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012): 84-91.

Fineberg, Joel. "Psychological Egoism." *Ethics: History, Theory and Contemporary Issues, Fifth Edition*. Steven Cahn and Peter Markie eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012): 584-91.

Optional: Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. "Ethical Egoism." *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*: 64-81.

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

4. Week of October 22: Utilitarianism

Mill, John Stuart. "What Utilitarianism Is." *On Liberty and Utilitarianism* (London: David Campbell, 1992): 117-136.

Bernard Williams, "Persons, Character and Morality." *Moral Luck: Philosophical Papers 1973-1980* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981): 1-19.

5: Week of October 29: Deontology

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

Schwitzgebel, Eric. "Will your driverless car kill you so others may live?" *The Los Angeles Times*, December 4, 2015.

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

Foot, Philippa. "The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of Double Effect." *Oxford Review* 5 (1967): 5-15.

Quinn, Warren. "Actions, Intentions, and Consequences: The Doctrine of Double Effect." *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (1989): 334-351.

Optional: Fitzpatrick, William. "The Intend/Foresee Distinction and the Problem of 'Closeness'." *Philosophical Studies* 128 (2006): 585-617.

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

#### 7. Week of November 12: Virtue Ethics

Hursthouse, Rosalind. "Normative Virtue Ethics." *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." *The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Philosophy*, Frank Jackson and Michael Smith eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005): 114-23.

Optional: Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. "Virtue Ethics," *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*: 159-74.

#### 8. Week of November 19: Contractarianism

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan* (Hammondsworth: Penguin, 1968), selections.

Optional: Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. "The Social Contract Theory," *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*: 82-98.

#### 9. Week of November 26: Morality and Evolution I

de Waal, Frans. "Primate Social Instincts, Human Morality, and the Rise and Fall of 'Veneer Theory.'" *Primates and Philosophers: How Morality Evolved*, Stephen Macedo and Josiah Ober eds. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006): 1-58.

de Waal, Frans. "Appendix B: Do Apes Have a Theory of Mind?" *Primates and Philosophers*: 69-74.

de Waal, Frans. "Appendix C: Animal Rights." *Primates and Philosophers*: 75-82.

#### 10. Week of December 3: Morality and Evolution II

Korsgaard, Christine. "Morality and the Distinctiveness of Human Action." *Primates and Philosophers*: 98-119.

Singer, Peter. "Morality, Reason and the Rights of Animals." *Primates and Philosophers*: 140-160.

**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 re-marked. 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.