

Phil 27: Ethics and Society (Provisional)

Spring 2023

Instructor

Reuven Brandt

Class time: M, W, F, 10:00-10:50AM

Office Hours: Fri. 2:00-4:00PM Ridge Walk Arts and Humanities Bld Room 0497

Email: rbrandt@ucsd.edu (Put Phil 27 in subject line)

Teaching assistants:

Dafna Mark-Ben-Shabat Office hours: Mon. 1:30-2:30 Location: Arts and Humanities bld. #0439 Email: dmarkben@ucsd.edu	Marcus MCGahhey Office hours: Friday 12-1PM Location: Zoom https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/94933658415 Email: mmcgahhe@ucsd.edu	Louis Santoro Office hours: Wed 3-4 Location: zoom https://ucsd.zoom.us/j/95729080373 Email: lsantoro@ucsd.edu
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Course description:

This class is an introduction to philosophical approaches to contemporary questions in applied ethics. In the first portion of the class we will be examining three theoretical approaches to ethical questions: Scepticism about morality, Mill's utilitarianism, and Ross' pluralistic deontology. With this theoretical background in place we will then move to examining questions that arise in applied ethics. The first two questions we will look at pertain to parenthood. We will look at whether parents ought to be licensed, and what kind of future parents must ensure for their children. Next we will look at whether drugs should be legal. We will then look at what we owe to others, what constitutes a good life, and whether morality requires us to treat everyone impartially.

Readings (All available on the course website)

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1	April 3 rd Intro – no readings	April 5th Shafer-Landau, Part II Ch 1-5, from Shafer-Landau, Russ. <i>Whatever happened to good and evil?</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.	April 7th Shafer-Landau, Part II Ch. 6-9 from, <i>Shafer-Landau, Russ. Whatever happened to good and evil?</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
Week 2	April 10th Shafer Landau, Part III Ch. 6-8. Shafer-Landau, Russ. <i>Whatever happened to good and evil?</i> . New York: Oxford University Press,	April 12th Analysis of Harris Ted talk (no new reading)	April 14 th Excerpt from Mill's <i>Utilitarianism</i>

	2004.		
Week 3	April 17th "What makes right actions Right", <i>The Right and the Good</i> , Ross	April 19th Catchup and Review	April 21st Midterm I
Week 4	April 24th LaFollette, "Licensing Parents"	April 26th Frisch, "On licentious licensing: A reply to Hugh LaFollette"	April 28 th Feinberg, "The Child's Right to an Open Future"
Week 5	May 1st C Mills, "The Child's Right to an Open Future?"	May 3rd Smith, "Drugs, Morality and the Law"	May 5th Corlett, "Taking Drugs Very Seriously"
Week 6	May 8 th Doucet and Porter. "What's the Harm in Addiction? Autonomy, Vulnerability, and the Case for Harm Reduction Drug Policy"	May 10th Catchup	May 12 th Midterm II
Week 7	May 15th Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"	May 17th Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics"	May 19th Narveson, Jan. "We don't owe them a thing! A tough-minded but soft-hearted view of aid to the faraway needy." <i>The Monist</i> 86.3 (2003): 419-433
Week 8	May 22 nd Nozick, 'The Experience Machine', from Nozick, Robert. <i>Anarchy, state, and utopia</i> . Vol. 5038. New York: Basic Books, 1974.	May 24 th "The Desire Theory", from <i>Welfare, Happiness, and Ethics</i> .	May 26 th Parfit, "What Makes a life Go Well", from Parfit, Derek. <i>Reasons and persons</i> . OUP Oxford, 1984.
Week 9	May 29 th NO CLASS	May 31st Open topic	June 2 nd Open topic
Week 10	June 5th Cottingham, "Partiality, favouritism and morality"	June 7th Review Wolf, S. (1982).	June 9 th Review

		Moral saints. The Journal of Philosophy, 79(8), 419-439.	
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Assessments:

Discussion section: attendance 5%, participation 5%

Midterm 1: 30%

Midterm 2: 30%

Comprehensive final: 30%

Percentage to Letter Grade Conversion Chart

Letter Grade	From	To
A+	97	100
A	93	96.99999
A-	90	92.99999
B+	87	89.99999
B	83	86.99999
B-	80	82.99999
C+	77	79.99999
C	73	76.99999
C-	70	72.99999
D	55	69.99999
F	0	54.99999

Participation Grade:

Students are expected to attend all discussion sections and regularly participate. Students are permitted one excused absence no questions asked. Students may request an excused absence with appropriate justification (family emergency, illness, etc.) Half the participation grade is from section attendance, the other half is based on active participation. For full marks for active participation students must make substantial contributions to the weekly discussion section 5 times over the course of the quarter. Students can fulfil the participation requirement by posting a thoughtful comment to the section discussion board at least 24 hours prior to the section meeting time.

Grade Disputes:

If you wish to appeal your grade first raise the matter with your TA. Your appeal should include some justification for why you think your grade was incorrect – a good way to do this is to respond to comments made by your TA on your exam. If you are unable to reach a satisfactory resolution with your TA you can request a regrade from the instructor. Note that the regrade may result in a lower grade.

General Policies:

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.
- If you require any form of accommodation on the grounds of disability please make sure you have registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities and have followed their guidelines for alerting instructors to your particular needs. The university's policy on the accommodation of disability can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/3>
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.
858.534.4382 (phone) | osd@ucsd.edu (email) | <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)
- If you require any accommodation on religious grounds, please alert me in writing as soon as possible. The university's policy on religious accommodation can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/operating-procedures/educational-policies/courses/epc-policies-on-courses/policy-exams-including-midterms-final-exams-and-religious-accommodations-for-exams/>
- All instances of academic offences including plagiarism, cheating on exams, and multiple submission of work, will be handled in accordance with official UCSD policy, which can be found here: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>. Please read the policy and ensure that you understand it.

Integrity Statement:

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act by asking yourself: a) is what I'm about to do or submit for credit an honest, fair, respectful, responsible & trustworthy representation of my knowledge and abilities at this time and, b) would my instructor approve of my action? You are ultimately the only person responsible for your behavior. So, if you are unsure, don't ask a friend—ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at academicintegrity.ucsd.edu" (Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018)

