

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop a mastery of contemporary debates regarding Consequentialist and Deontological theories of ethics. We will focus on modern rather than historical analyses and criticisms of these theories.

Grading

Tests – You will be assigned a single short-answer (250 word) essay question roughly every week. Each essay will be worth 10% of your final grade. There will be no additional final examination for this class (though the last essay will be due during finals week). Each short-answer prompt will be handed out On Friday and will be due on Monday. You will be docked a total of five points on each essay for major grammar errors. ESL speakers should speak to me for special accommodations.

Excuses - I will grant extensions to an essay's due date for serious emergencies provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards, and for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Otherwise, essays will be docked five points for every day that they are late (including weekends). Tests more than two days late will not be accepted.

GRADING SCALE

100-94	A
<94-90	A-
<90-87	B+
<87-84	B
<84-80	B-
<80-77	C+
<77-74	C
<74-70	C-
<70-61	D
<61-0	F

Readings

All readings for this class are available on the class's Canvas page.

Contact

When you email me, be sure to include your full name and your student ID. Please email me only from your official UCSD email address. Office hours are Tuesdays from 12:30-1:30 in my office at Ridge Walk Academic Complex, Bldg 1, Arts & Humanities, Room 0458. I am also available by appointment.

Psychological Services

CAPS is an indispensable resource for student life at UCSD. They provide free, confidential, psychological counseling and crisis services for registered UCSD students. CAPS is providing alternate ways of meeting, including video consultations. For more information, please visit [here](#), or contact 858.534.3755.

Academic Integrity

Any suspected violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs.

Details on what counts as cheating can be found here: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. I will submit all papers to Turnitin, which will determine whether the author has plagiarized from other papers or from Internet sources.

Special Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations due to a disability should provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please arrange to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations can be arranged. For further info, see: disabilities.ucsd.edu

Readings & Topics

We will cover the following topics and readings in the order presented below. We will spend as much time as necessary to master each of the readings.

Introduction: Utilitarianism and Consequentialism

- Philip Pettit – ‘Consequentialism’
- John Rawls – selections from *A Theory of Justice*

Indirect Consequentialism

Self-Effacing Consequentialism

- Bernard Williams – selections from *Utilitarianism: For & Against*
- Peter Railton – ‘Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality’
- Derek Parfit – selection from *Reasons and Persons*

Rule Consequentialism

- T.M. Scanlon – ‘Rights, Goals, and Fairness’
- Richard B. Brandt – ‘Toward a Credible form of Utilitarianism’

Agent-Relativity and Deontology

- Robert Nozick – selections from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
- Thomas Nagel – selections from *The View from Nowhere*
- Samuel Scheffler – selections from *The Rejection of Consequentialism*
- Stephen Darwall – ‘Agent-Centered Restrictions From the Inside Out’

Scalar Consequentialism

- Michael Slote – ‘Satisficing Consequentialism’
- Philip Pettit – ‘Satisficing Consequentialism’ (response)
- Neil Sinhababu – ‘Scalar Consequentialism the Right Way’

The Doctrines of Doing and Allowing and of Double-Effect

- Frances Kamm – ‘Harming some to Save Others’
- Warren S. Quinn – ‘Actions, Intentions, and Consequences’