

Philosophy 28: Ethics & Society II

Prof. Saba Bazargan-Forward

Fall 2024, MW 12-12:50

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Room: LEDDN AUD. Lectures will be held in person but also recorded and made available asynchronously.

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Course Description

This class consists of three modules; each is on a different topic in applied ethics. Listed below are the sorts of questions each module focuses on. The ultimate purpose of this course is to develop the analytic skills necessary to cogently apprehend and diagnose complex contemporary ethical problems.

- *War* Are combatants fighting in a war morally responsible for doing so?

Are civilians to blame for unjust wars their government fights?

What are the criteria determining whether a war is morally

just?

- *Compensation* Do beneficiaries of racism and sexism owe compensation to the victims of bigotry?

Can compensation owed for discrimination serve as a basis for

affirmative action?

Must non-voluntary beneficiaries of an injustice compensate

the victims?

- *Immigration* Should there be open borders?

What rights do immigrants have?

What are the criteria for membership in a society?

- *Vaccinations* Should vaccinations against communicable diseases be made mandatory? Do

lockdowns, mask-wearing, social isolation, etc. wrongly

impede on freedom?

Do we have a right to self-defense against gratuitous exposure

to viruses?

Grading

<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

Exams - There will be three in-class exams. Each will be worth 30% of your total grade, respectively. Each exam will consist of a set of short-answer questions. The essays will only cover material presented after the previous one. The 'final exam' will simply be the third exam, held during finals-week.

Attendance - All lectures will be held in person; podcasts will be made available asynchronously. Discussion sections will be held only in person and attendance will count toward 10% of your class grade.

Excuses - Excuses also be granted only for very serious emergencies (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards.

Reading - All readings are available electronically on the class's Canvas page. The readings are not extensive, but they *are* difficult. Part of the purpose of lecture is to help you comprehend and analyze the reading. The reading schedule is below, but we might deviate from that schedule.

Contact

My virtual office hours are on Tuesdays from 12-1, or by appointment. **If you email me, be sure to include your full name, your TA's name, and your student ID number.** Do not email me to ask who your TA is. My email: sbazargan@ucsd.edu. TA's emails are hyperlinked at the top of the first page.

Psychological Services

This is a difficult time for all of us – for some more than others. You should feel free to contact me privately if you wish to talk. In addition, 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 (which includes 24 hours crisis counseling).

Any suspected violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Details regarding what counts as cheating can be found here: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. Consult the site or an instructor if you have any doubts or questions regarding what counts as cheating. Student caught cheating often don't realize that what they were doing even counts as cheating. For this reason, it's imperative that you review the guidelines. All research papers will be run through

Academic Integrity

Grading Scale

100-94 A

the Turnitin service, 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

This list is tentative and subject to change.

MODULE A – WAR

Week 1

- M: [class intro]
- W: Parts 3 & 4.1 of the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on 'War'](#)

Week 2

- M: Parts 3 & 4.1 of the [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy entry on 'War'](#) (cont). ●
- W: McMahan - 'On the Moral Equality of Combatants' (skip §V)

Week 3

- M: McMahan - 'On the Moral Equality of Combatants' (skip §V) (cont). ●
- W: Hurka - 'Proportionality and the Morality of War'

Week 4

- M: Hurka - 'Proportionality and the Morality of War' (cont).
- W: *EXAM 1, Oct. 23*

MODULE B – COMPENSATION & IMMIGRATION

Week 5

- M: Thomson - 'Preferential Hiring' (selections) & Fullinwider - 'Preferential Hiring & Compensation'
- W: Hull - 'Affirmative Action and the Choice of Amends'

Week 6

- M: Hull - 'Affirmative Action and the Choice of Amends' (cont).
- W: Butt - 'On Benefitting from Injustice'

Week 7

- M: *Veteran's Day*
- W: Kukathas - 'The Case for Open Borders'

Week 8

- M: Miller - 'The Case for Limits'
- W: *EXAM 2, Nov. 20*

MODULE C – HEALTHCARE ETHICS

Week 9

- M: Wilkinson - 'Contagious Disease and Self-Defense'
- W: David - 'The Ethics of Killing in a Pandemic'

Week 10

- W: Oberman - 'Freedom and Viruses'
- M: Oberman - 'Freedom and Viruses' (cont).

Week 11

- Th: *EXAM 3, Dec. 12, 11:30-12:30*

