Phil 27 Ethics and Society

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

Andy Lamey
alamey@ucsd.edu
(858) 534-9111 (no voicemail)
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.

Teaching Assistant  Email  Office Hours  Location
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


Week Two: Deontology


Week Three: Utilitarianism


Week Four: Virtue Ethics


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*


**Week Six: Business Ethics**


**Week Seven: Voluntary Amputation**


**Week Eight: Engineering Animals**


**Thursday February 26 Second Essay Due 5:00 pm**

**Week Nine: Geoengineering**


Week Ten: De-extinction


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.