

INTRODUCTORY HANDOUT PHILOSOPHY 13 Spring, 2022
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY---ETHICS revised 5/4/

Professor (lecturer): Richard Arneson.

Teaching Assistants: Ahmed Siddiqi and Joseph Stratmann

For further information about the course, which will change week by week, consult the Philosophy 13 Canvas course page.

To access course materials in Canvas, go to the Canvas course web page. A menu of Phil 13 class materials will show up on the screen.

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m. in HSS 1330 .

Discussion sections meet once a week: section #1, Monday 2:00-2:50 p.m. in HSS 2150; section #2, Wednesday 3:00-3:50 p.m. in HSS 2150; section #3, Friday 10:00-10:50 a.m. in HSS 1315; and section #4, Friday 12:00 noon to 12:50 p.m. in HSS 1315. Ahmed Siddiqi is the instructor for sections #2 and #4, Joseph Stratmann is the instructor for sections #1 and #3. Ahmed Siddiqi office hours Wednesdays 12:45-2:45 on the 5th floor terrace, Arts & Humanities Bldg. Joseph Stratmann office hours: Wednesdays 9:00-11:00 am via ZOOM (ID928 6478 1700).

The final exam for this course will be a regular 3-hour exam comprehending all course materials including readings, course lectures, and powerpoint slides. The final exam will take place on June 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., place to be announced (possibly in our regular classroom) . If you enroll in this class, you must be free to take a regular final exam for this course at this time.

THE AIMS OF THE COURSE are (1) to improve our skills at reading and understanding analytical writings and at thinking and writing clearly about complex issues and (2) to become more aware of the structure of our own moral views and of moral positions opposed to our own.

COURSE TEXTS: All course readings are available for downloading at the course Canvas page.

READINGS. The required readings for each class are listed as “Readings” on the Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings below. For some classes there will be a further list of “Merely recommended readings” in smaller print—like this. **These MERELY RECOMMENDED NOT REQUIRED readings will not show up on exams.** They are optional. I include them for anyone who wants to explore the topic for that day a bit further.

CLICKERS QUESTIONS & IN-CLASS WRITING EXERCISES. At some points during some lectures an I-clicker question will be posed, and so each enrolled student must have an iclicker for this course. Some of these questions will have the purpose of helping you and me learn whether we are understanding what’s being discussed. Some questions will ask you to indicate what view you are inclined to favor on an issue posed in that day’s reading. Sometimes you will be asked to do an in-class writing exercise on some question related to that day’s readings. The point of these writing exercises is to get us actively thinking about course materials. Your lecture class participation score will be based solely on your participation in these exercises, not on any grading of your responses.

NO USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES (COMPUTERS, I-PHONES, I-PADS AND SO ON) is permitted during class. If you want to take notes during class, you can use pens and paper. This rule applies to lectures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Attendance at lectures is required, but will affect the course grade only via your participation in the in-class writing exercises and iclicker questions. Regular participation in discussion section meetings is required. There will be a midterm takehome exam (about 1300 words) (due on Thursday of week 3), a short writing assignment (about 1700 words) (due on Tuesday of Week 8), topics to be assigned in lecture, and a regular comprehensive final examination. On your exams and the writing assignment you will be graded according to the clarity of your prose, the cogency of your arguments, and the soundness of the understanding of course materials that you exhibit. The final

examination will comprehend all course materials including required readings, lectures, and powerpoint slides accompanying lectures and posted at the Canvas course page.

GRADING: Your participation in discussion section meetings counts for 15 percent of your overall course grade; lecture class participation counts for 10 per cent, the midterm takehome exam counts for 15 per cent, the writing assignment for 25 per cent, and the final examination for 35 per cent.

Only medical excuses certified by a note from your physician or a comparable certified excuse will be accepted for late submission of the writing assignment or absence from the midterm exam, or to justify the assignment of an Incomplete course grade.

GRADING FOR PASS/NOT PASS STUDENTS. If you are enrolled in this course on a pass/not pass basis, and have an A minus or better **overall** average on the midterm takehome exam, the writing assignment, lecture participation, and section participation, going into the final exam, you have already earned a PASS grade in the course and are excused from taking the final exam. This information probably will not be available until the end of week 10 of the course. Be sure to check with your TA if you believe you have qualified to pass the course without taking the final exam as just described, to make sure there are no misunderstandings.

DISCUSSION SECTIONS. A discussion meeting for each section will occur once a week. Participation and performance at section meetings will contribute to your course grade. Your TA will explain the details. Apart from grades, the discussion sections are essential to the learning process because they provide the opportunity for a structured dialogue in which your opinions on ethical issues can be expressed, debated, and clarified. Helped by your TA, you learn from your classmates and they from you. Also, the TA will offer a different perspective on the issues from what the lectures provide.

DISABILITY. If you have a certified disability that requires accommodation, you should register with the campus Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and provide me a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by that Office. A copy of this same letter should also be given to the OSD liaison person in the Philosophy Department at the start of the term, so accommodation can be arranged. Please let me know your disability status at the start of the course, so I can work with the office to comply with the accommodation it stipulates as appropriate.

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. No dishonesty or cheating, in other words. See the University Policy on academic Integrity at <http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/index.html/>

OFFICE HOURS: You are welcome and encouraged to come to my (Arneson's) office hours or those of your TA whenever you want to talk about the course material and themes, the assignments, or any other course-related concerns you have.

Writing: Your success in this class will depend in part on your ability to express yourself clearly. The course readings provide exemplars of clear philosophical writing. At the Canvas course page are some handouts with tips about how to write philosophy essays. As you work on your writing assignment (probably due at the start of week 8), your TAs and I can help you talk through your ideas. Another resource is the UCSD Writing Center (located at 127 Mandeville; writingcenter@ucsd.edu). Their staff can help you with drafts of essays and generally provide advice for you at all stages of the writing process.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

Note: All readings are available at the Canvas course page

Week 1. March 28-April 3.

Monday: Introduction to moral argument. Morality, ethics—what's that?

Reading: Jonathan Glover, "The Scope and Limits of Moral Argument"; also Thomas Nagel, "Right and Wrong".

Merely recommended: John Rawls, "Some Remarks on Moral Theory"; also Russ Shafer-Landau, "Introduction" to his *The Fundamentals of Ethics*.

Wednesday: Moral relativism and moral skepticism.

Reading, Statement on Human Rights, American Anthropological Association, 1947. Also, James Rachels, "Morality Is Not Relative."

Merely recommended: Russ Shafer-Landau, "Moral Reasoning" pages 5-13, of his "Introduction" (repeats some of Monday recommendation).

Friday: John Stuart Mill's utilitarianism. Mill: we need a criterion of right & wrong. Utilitarianism: what is morally right is doing whatever would bring about the greatest sum of good. Mill's fancy hedonism.

Utilitarianism and common-sense moral rules. Reading: J. S. Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapters 1 & 2.

Week 2. April 4-10.

Monday: What in itself makes your life go better for you rather than worse? Rival views of human good: hedonism, desire satisfaction, objective list. Reading: Richard Kraut, "Desire and Human Good."

Merely recommended reading: Derek Parfit, "What Makes Someone's Life Go Best?"

Wednesday: Hedonism (the good is pleasure and the absence of pain and that's it). Mill's fancy hedonism. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 2, paragraphs 2-12 (repeating some of last Friday's reading). Also: Robert Nozick, "The experience machine."

Friday: The good life, what's that? Discussion continued. Hybrid views.

Reading: Robert Adams, "Well-Being and Excellence."

Week 3. April 11-17.

Monday: Utilitarianism and justice; utilitarianism & consequentialism; arguments against consequentialism. Reading: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 5.

Merely recommended reading: Russ Shafer-Landau, "Consequentialism: Its Difficulties."

Wednesday: Nonconsequentialist morality; constraints and options. Reading: Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Chapter 3.

Merely recommended reading: Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice," Section 1, paragraphs on "The Entitlement Theory" (pp. 46-49) and on "Locke's Theory of Acquisition" and "The Proviso" (pp. 70-78) only.

Friday: More on constraints and options. Are constraints against wrongfully harming others stronger for harming we do than for harm we allow, and stronger for intended consequences of what we do and allow than for merely foreseen consequences of what we do and allow?

Reading: Warren Quinn, "Actions, Intentions, and Consequences: The Doctrine of Double Effect."

FRIDAY: TAKEHOME MIDTERM DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT. SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED MIDTERM AT THE CANVAS COURSE PAGE ASSIGNMENTS FOLDER (& THEREBY AT TURNITIN).

Week 4. April 18-24.

Monday: Pluralism and a morality of pro tanto duties (any of which can be overridden in any particular circumstances by any combination of the others). Morality as a list of duties.

Reading: W. D. Ross, "What Makes Right Acts Right?"

Merely recommended reading: Russ Shafer-Landau, "Ethical Pluralism: Prima Facie Duties and Ethical Particularism."

Wednesday: The morality of killing. Reading: Judith Thomson, "Self-Defense."

Friday: Liability to being permissibly killed. Reading: Jeff McMahan, "The Basis of Moral Liability to Defensive Killing." [Guest lecturer: Prof. Saba Bazargan-Forward.]

Merely recommended reading: Michael Otsuka, "Killing the Innocent in Self-Defense." Also Helen Frowe, chapters 1 & 2 of her *Defensive Killing*.

Week 5. April 25-May 1.

Monday: Self-defense and moral blameworthiness. Reading: Richard Arneson: "Self-Defense and Culpability: Fault forfeits first."

Wednesday: Can it be permissible to intend to do what would be wrong to do? Reading: Greg Kavka, "Some Paradoxes of Deterrence."

Friday: Just war (Jus ad bellum) and just warfare (Jus in bello) . Reading: Jeff McMahan, "The Ethics of Killing in War," sections 1-5, pp. 693-718.

Week 6. May 2-8.

Monday: More on just warfare (Jus in bello). Reading: Seth Lazar, *Sparing Civilians*, chapters 1 & 3.
Merely recommended reading: Gertrude Elizabeth Anscombe, "War and Murder."

Wednesday: Conditions for just war. Reading: Thomas Hurka, "Proportionality in the Morality of War"

Friday: More on proportionality in the morality of war. Reading: Kieran Oberman: "War and Poverty."

Week 7. May 9-15.

Monday: Uncoerced nonconsensual sex. Reading: Tom Dougherty. "Sex, Lies, and Consent."

Wednesday: Further on sex, lies, & consent. Reading: Hallie Liberto, "Intention and Sexual Consent."

Friday: Manipulation in context. Reading: Allen Wood, "Coercion, Manipulation, and Exploitation."

Merely recommended reading: Michael Cholbi, "The Implications of Ego Depletion for the Ethics and Politics of Manipulation."

Week 8. May 16-22.

Monday: Manipulation. Reading: Moti Gorin, "Towards a Theory of Interpersonal Manipulation."

Wednesday: Wrongful coercion. Reading: Coercion. Reading: Stephen J. White, "On the Moral Objection to Coercion."

Friday: Social ethics. What institutions & public policies does justice require? One issue--Capitalism versus socialism. Reading: G. A. Cohen, "Why Not Socialism?"

FRIDAY: WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE BEFORE MIDNIGHT. SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED WRITING ASSIGNMENT AT THE CANVAS COURSE PAGE ASSIGNMENTS FOLDER (& THEREBY AT TURNITIN).

Week 9. May 23-29.

Monday: More on capitalism versus socialism. Reading: Jason Brennan, *Why Not Capitalism?*, chapters 1-2.

Merely recommended reading: Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice," Section 1, paragraphs on "The Entitlement Theory" (pp. 46-49) and on "Locke's Theory of Acquisition," and "The Proviso" (pp. 70-78) only. (This entry is also listed under week 3.)

Wednesday: More on capitalism versus socialism. Reading Jason Brennan, "Why Not Capitalism?", chapters 3-4.

Friday: Abortion. Reading: Judith Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion."

Merely recommended reading: Gina Schouten, "Fetuses, Orphans, and a Famous Violinist: On the Ethics and Politics of Abortion."

Week 10. May 30-June 5.

Monday: NO CLASS. Memorial Day observed.

Wednesday: Against abortion. Reading: Don Marquis, "Why Abortion Is Immoral."

Friday: Abortion and infanticide. Reading: Mary Anne Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion." Also: Warren, "Postscript: Infanticide."

Merely recommended reading: Jeff McMahan, "Infanticide."

Arneson's office hours: Tuesdays 1-2 & Wednesdays 2-3 in RWAC 0489.

(I'll be in my office at those times, and you can also contact me at those Same times via Zoom through the link posted at the Canvas course page.)

Arneson's email: rarneson@ucsd.edu