

Introduction to Ethical Theory
Philosophy 22, Fall 2016

Instructor:

Dr. Sandra Dreisbach, dreisbach@soe.ucsc.edu

Cowell Annex, Room 107

Fridays, 11:30AM-12:30PM, *Office hours may change but you can also meet with me by appointment.*

Teaching Assistants:

Abe Joyal, ajoyal@ucsc.edu

Sections: MNO

Alea Grundler, agrundle@ucsc.edu

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Sean Hunter, ghunter@ucsc.edu

Sections: PLD

Tyler Olsson, tolsson@ucsc.edu

Sections: QRE

Class schedule: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 4:00-5:05 PM, Media Theater M110

Course Goals & Structure: *Introduction to Ethical Theory* is a consideration of ethical issues and theories focusing on the foundation of moral value and the principles governing character and behavior. Designed to extend and develop the student's abilities in philosophical reasoning about ethics.

Required Readings and Resources:

Singer, Peter; Ethics, any edition

Canvas Online Readings and Multimedia

The books are available at the Literary Guillotine. Book is available on reserve at McHenry Library. Additional required readings and multimedia materials will be distributed or linked to via Canvas.

Canvas: The day-to-day functioning of this course will rely heavily on Canvas, including downloading required and suggested readings or online videos and distribution of the weekly assignments. You must check Canvas regularly for new assignments and course information, meaning at least several times a week. You may also need to print some readings in order to discuss them closely in section.

If you have any trouble with Canvas, you are expected to ask for help from your instructor, TA, and/or campus technical support. Please note that in order for Canvas to function, your web browser must be supported and configured correctly. If you are already enrolled, Canvas will recognize you as such. If you are wait-listed or adding to the class, send an email to Dr. Dreisbach to be added as an auditor, if need be, until you become officially enrolled.

Class Accommodations:

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with learning difference(s) and/or disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. At this time, I would also like us to discuss ways I can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

Counseling and Psychological Services:

All currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students at the University of California at Santa Cruz are eligible to utilize on-campus counseling services. Situational and developmental problems frequently interfere with academic performance. Please make use of the campus resources available to support you. Services are confidential (831) 459-2628. <http://caps.ucsc.edu/counseling/index.html>

Academic Misconduct: By enrolling in the University, students are automatically agreeing to abide by University policies, including those on academic misconduct. Academic integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCSC community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and as such are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow citation practices. The instructor in this course will pursue disciplinary action in all instances of academic misconduct.

Student Evaluation:

20% MIDTERM

23% FINAL EXAM

32% SHORT ASSIGNMENTS (Four Assignments, 8% Each)

15% DISCUSSION & CLASS Attendance and Participation

10% READING RESPONSES (Lowest two reading responses out of seven dropped, for Five total, 2% Each)

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend and participate in class. Participation will be evaluated in part based on occasional in class written exercises.

Midterm and Final Exam: The Midterm and Final Exam will be part multiple-choice and part short-essays and/or long-essays. You will need to bring a Scantron and Blue Book for both the Midterm and Final Exam. If you have a known scheduling conflict with either the Midterm or Final Examination date, you must inform Dr. Dreisbach by the second week of class to make alternative arrangements. Otherwise, absence from the Midterm or Final Exam will be granted for medical or family emergencies only. An incomplete grade or an opportunity to make-up the points will be assigned to the student at the instructors' discretion. Excused absences will not be granted for non-emergency reasons.

Short Assignments: Each student is responsible for FOUR essays out of at least SIX paper topic assignments mostly short 2-3 page essays, due Monday at the very beginning of class by 4:05PM. The new assignments will be posted on Canvas at least one week prior to the due date. Do not come to class late and expect to turn in your assignment. Assignments will NOT be accepted late NO EXCEPTIONS. If you run into serious last minute problems or are ill, you can email your assignment to your TA BEFORE the 4:05 PM deadline but you must still submit a hard copy to your TA as well at or before your next section meeting. Students can ONLY hand in four assignments.

Discussion Section: In the discussion sections, students will more fully explore the issues covered in lecture and in the readings. This course relies heavily on discussion, and attendance at weekly TA led discussion sections is MANDATORY. Students are expected to come to discussion section with all relevant readings and lecture notes and to be prepared to participate having read all readings before section. Discussion grades will be assigned based on attendance record and quality of participation. Section Make-ups: Students can attend another section to make-up for two missed sections maximum. In order to make-up a section, students must email their TA AND the make-up TA which section they missed and what section they will be attending. Sections can only be made up within one week of the missed section. *Students who miss three or more discussion sections will fail the course.*

Reading Responses: In discussion section there will also be very short 7 Reading Responses completed in section based on the readings for that week. The lowest two reading responses will be dropped.

Overview of Course Schedule and Topics

The pacing may adjust based on lecture as well as additional readings available on Canvas but this is your general overview of required readings from Ethics textbook. Please check Canvas for updates to schedule, syllabus, and required readings.

Week One

1. Plato, "Morality as the Advantage of the Stronger: A Debate Between Socrates and Thrasymachus"
2. Aristotle, "Moral Virtue, How Produced"
3. Mencius, "Are Humans Good by Nature? A Debate between Chinese Sages"
4. Hobbes, "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind and the Laws of Nature"
5. Rousseau, "The Natural State of Man"
6. Hume, "Affection of Humanity: The Foundation of Morals"
7. Kant, "The Noble Descent of Duty"
9. Darwin, "The Origin of the Moral Sense"
10. Nietzsche, "The Origins of the Herd Morality"

Week Two - FIRST WEEK of Discussion Sections

13. Goodall, "Helping Kin in Chimpanzees"
15. Barash, "The Genetic Basis of Ethics"
17. Ashworth, "Live and Let Live"
20. Confucius, "A Single Word"
21. "The Law of Hammurabi"
22. Jesus, "Turn the Other Cheek"
23. Hillel, "The Whole Torah while Standing on One Foot"
25. Axelrod, "Tit for Tat"

Week Three

- 33. Hume, "Reason and Passion"
- 34. Kant, "Pure Practical Reason and the Moral Law"
- 36. Sidgwick, "The Axioms of Ethics"
- 38. Wittgenstein, "A Lecture on Ethics"
- 40. Sartre, "Condemned to Be Free"

Week Four

- 41. Nagel, "The Objective Basis of Morality"
- 42. Mackie, "The Argument from Queerness"
- 43. McGinn, "Evolution and the Basis of Morality"

Week Five

- 44. Held, "Reason, Gender, and Moral Theory"
- 45. Smith, "Realism"
- 46. The Buddha, "The Ceasing of Woe"
- 47. Aristotle, "The End for Human Nature"
- 48. Epicurus, "The Pursuit of Pleasure"
- 49. Epictetus, "A Stoic View of Life"

Midterm Exam

Week Six

- 50. Jesus, "The Sermon on the Mount"
- 52. Voltaire, "Story of Good Brahmin"
- 54. Mill, "Higher and Lower Pleasure"
- 55. James, "Good as the Satisfaction of Demands"
- 57. Moore, "Beauty and Friendship"
- 58. Nozick, "The Experience Machine"
- 59. Parfit, "What Makes Someone's Life Go Best?"

Week Seven

- 65. Locke, "Our Rights in the State of Nature"
- 68. Nozick, "The Rationality of Side Constraints"
- 72. Mill, "On Nature"
- 73. Kant, "The Categorical Imperative"
- 74. Langton, "Maria von Herbert's Challenge to Kant"

Week Eight

- 80. Smart, "Desert Island Promises"
- 82. Dostoevsky, "Ivan's Challenge"
- 84. Rawls, "The Separateness of Persons"

Week Nine

- 85. Williams, "Jim and the Indians"
- 86. Wolf, "Moral Saints"
- 87. Rawls, "The Main Idea of the Theory of Justice"
- 88. Gauthier, "Why Contractarianism?"

Week Ten

- 90. Parfit, "How Both Human History and the History of Ethics May be Just Beginning"