Introduction to Ethical Theory

Philosophy 22
Spring 2013
MW 5:00 – 6:45pm
Earth and Marine Sciences, B206

Instructor
Janette Dininishak
Office: 105 Cowell Faculty Annex (the annex is south of Page Smith Library)
Office Hours: 2:00-3:30pm, Wednesdays & by appointment
Email: jdinisha@ucsc.edu

Teaching Assistant (TA)
Ryan Scherbart
Office Hours: Ryan will hold pre- and post-essay consultation hours (availability to be announced via eCommons and email as the time draws near)
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Tutors
Leigh Douglas: ljdougla@ucsc.edu
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Tyler Scott: tscott@ucsc.edu
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David Welchman: dwelchma@ucsc.edu
Anna Zaret: azaret@ucsc.edu
Which tutor is leading my discussion group?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tutor</th>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>11:00AM-12:10PM</td>
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Your tutor will announce his or her office hours during your first section meeting in Week 2. Tutor office hours will also be posted on our course website in eCommons.

Swapping Sections

Due to the enormous size of our class I will not permit informal section swapping. Why not? Record-keeping slip-ups and poor communication are always live possibilities, but when students swap sections informally there is an increased danger that those students will go missing. Even if these weren’t serious concerns, another issue is that informal swapping creates extra administrative work for our tutors. If you would like to swap sections you must do so officially, through the online enrollment system so that you are recorded in AIS as a member of the section you plan on attending.

How to Change a Grade Option or Secondary Section:
http://registrar.ucsc.edu/faqs/students/enrollment/edit-enrollment.pdf

FAQs Student Enrollment Questions:
http://registrar.ucsc.edu/faqs/students/enrollment/index.html

Course Description

This course provides an introductory survey of classic and contemporary approaches to some central topics in ethical theory. We will explore the nature of ethics (its origins, variations, and basis) and the content of ethics (judging good outcomes and right acts). Some questions we will examine include: Where does ethics come from? Are humans good by nature? What obligations and constraints guide our behavior? Is the behavior of our closest non-human relatives guided by similar obligations and constraints? What role does reason play in influencing what we decide to do? What constitutes the good life for a human being? What criteria should we use to judge an act
right or wrong? We will end by reflecting on some ethical issues that arise in connection with people with disabilities.

**Readings**

- **Text:** *Ethics*, edited by Peter Singer. Oxford University Press, 1994. (NB: this is the first and only edition of the book)

  *Ethics* is available for purchase at **Literary Guillotine** 204 Locust Street, downtown Santa Cruz (831-457-1195); Webpage: [http://www.literaryguillotine.com/](http://www.literaryguillotine.com/) and a copy is on reserve at McHenry (2-hour loan period).

- **Any additional required or supplementary readings will be posted in Resources on eCommons at least one week prior to the class meeting in which the reading will be discussed.**

  For eCommons technical support, please contact the ITS Help Desk:

  Online: [http://itrequest.ucsc.edu/](http://itrequest.ucsc.edu/)

  Phone: (831) 459-HELP (4357)

  Email: help@ucsc.edu

  In-Person: Kerr Hall Rm. 54, M-F 8am to 5pm

  Here is a link to “Helpful eCommons Info for Students”:

  [https://ecommons.ucsc.edu/access/content/group/473329d1-b5f5-43b9-bfb6-9b70859f2442/eCommons%20Help%20for%20Students](https://ecommons.ucsc.edu/access/content/group/473329d1-b5f5-43b9-bfb6-9b70859f2442/eCommons%20Help%20for%20Students)

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<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1 (3 pgs.)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>April 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2 (3 pgs.)</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>May 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; Participation in Section</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Meet Weeks 2 thru 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Papers</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>See info below*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>June 12 (8am-11am)</td>
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**Essays**

Specific instructions and topics will be provided in lecture and uploaded under Resources in eCommons.

**Attendance & Participation in Section**

Each student is assigned to a discussion group led by one of our tutors. Discussion sections will start meeting in Week 2 and continue to meet each week, including Week 10. There are two components of this course requirement:

1. **Section Attendance** is mandatory, in the following sense. Response papers are due in section during weeks 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8. Attending section is the precondition for the possibility of participating in discussion section. If you are not in section, you cannot participate. Tutors will take attendance to get to know your names and to have some rough idea of how often you turned up.
Note: Attendance will not be taken at lecture, but some material may be available only to those who attend lecture.

2. Section Participation: On the other hand, mere section attendance is not sufficient for participation. Your section is your smaller, more interactive learning community. The success of this community depends on your consistent attendance and quality participation. There are lots of ways to participate. The most familiar ways are: (a) to ask a question; (b) to answer a question posed by someone else; (c) to initiate a line of discussion by making a comment about the reading or something that came up when you were writing your response paper or a theme from lecture; (d) or to respond to a comment someone else has made during the section meeting. There are also less familiar forms of participation, some of them “silent”. If you’re shy or prefer not to speak in section for some reason, consider writing down a question or comment during section and then handing it in to your tutor after class. Or draw a picture or cartoon that illustrates a concept from class and share it. Or share an outside resource (e.g., a relevant poem or video clip). Or share a question or comment with your tutor by email. Or go to your tutor’s office hours. Or come to mine. Or approach me at the podium at break during lecture. Just make sure that I know your name if you decide to participate at my office hours or by approaching me in class.

Under Resources on our eCommons webpage you will find a rubric that describes the basic criteria that will be used to assess your section participation. Obviously, this rubric does not do justice to the less familiar forms of participation that I mentioned above. If you have any questions or concerns about participation or any other course expectations, please let us know.

Midterm Check-In

In Week 5 your tutor will let you know the grade you would earn for participation if the class were to end at that point. These mock grades will be posted in eCommons in Week 5 and then erased in Week 6. To repeat, the interim grade is a mock grade only. It does not have any bearing on the grade you will receive at the end of the quarter. Your final participation grade could be higher or lower than the interim grade. So what’s the point of providing you with a mock grade? The aim is to encourage you to assess your own progress in the course (e.g., by discussing your participation with your tutor) and to help you determine how to improve your participation before the quarter ends, if you wish to do so.

I encourage you to use the midterm check-in as an opportunity to assess how you’re doing with respect to other aspects of the course, too (i.e., your writing, completion and comprehension of the readings, lecture comprehension, etc.).

Response Papers*

Each student is required to write FIVE reading response papers.

Formatting requirements

1-page, double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman or Garamond font, one-inch margins all around; include your name, your TA’s name, the date, and your discussion section

Instructions: There are two parts to the assignment. First, carefully articulate a single claim or reconstruct a single argument from one of the assigned readings for the week in question (e.g. if you are writing a response paper due in Week 2, you must write about a reading assigned for Week 2). Second, critically discuss whether you agree or disagree with the claim or argument you chose. Explain your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing. At the top of the page please include a title that indicates which reading(s) you have chosen as your focus.

Although these are very short assignments, quality is expected. Make every word count. Incorporate a vivid example or an analogy to illustrate and/or explore your ideas. Choose words for their precise meanings. Write so
that even your Great Granny can follow your prose. You are welcome to include one short quote from the text, but do not make that quote do the descriptive and explanatory work for you. Do not incorporate outside resources; no additional research is required or expected.

Response Paper Due Dates

Hand in your response papers at the beginning of your discussion section meeting. Responses are due the beginning of your section meeting during the following weeks:

- Week 2
- Week 3
- Week 4
- Week 6
- Week 8

Evaluation

Key dimensions of the evaluation: grammar, mechanics, spelling, sentence structure, paragraph structure, clarity, organization; the extent to which the student identifies an arguable claim and/or argument from the text, critically discusses an arguable claim and/or argument from the text, and demonstrates understanding of the text (e.g., by explaining and illustrating key concepts)

- ✓- (beginning; needs significant development)
- ✓ (competent; strong in some areas but needs development in others)
- ✓+ (exemplary; strong in most or all areas)

Individual checks from week-to-week will not be graded one-by-one and converted numerically. Instead, you will be graded holistically. The series of checks you receive over the course of the quarter will be used to establish an overall letter grade for the response papers taken as a whole, and once this letter grade is determined, it will be converted numerically. Every student who receives a letter grade of A for his or her response papers, for example, will receive the same numerical score.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of T/F, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple choice questions. It is cumulative. In lecture I will incorporate review questions to help you get a sense of the types of questions you will encounter on the exam.

Other Course Information

1. Lateness policy: Late assignments and make-up tests are not permitted except for emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance. Please notify your tutor in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines.

2. Email policy: Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to your tutor first. This will facilitate record-keeping and communication. Your tutor is also available via email. Ryan Scherbart, our teaching assistant, is your next point of contact via email (rscherba@ucsc.edu). As always, I’m here too if you have any questions or concerns about anything related to our course. Email me directly rather than through the eCommons message system.

Note regarding all email correspondence: Please be kind and considerate and note what section you’re in when you correspond with any member of our teaching team. Because substantive philosophical questions
about readings, arguments, or ideas often require back and forth discussion, they are best answered in person—during office hours, or during discussion section.

3. **Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course!** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. The sooner you let us know your situation, the sooner we can assist you. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For more information please visit UCSC’s Disability Resource Center homepage: http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml. Please note that it is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with me to arrange for test-taking accommodations and any other kind of accommodation that requires advanced planning.

4. **Plagiarism policy:** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on academic honesty (http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions or concerns about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask us.


5. **Extra help:** Learning Support Services (LSS) offers many academic programs to UCSC students (see http://www2.ucsc.edu/lss/). One of these programs is course-specific tutoring that is available to all UCSC students. Students meet in small groups (up to 4 people per group) led by a tutor. Students are eligible for up to 1 hour of tutoring per week per course, and may sign-up for tutoring at https://eop.sa.ucsc.edu/OTSS/tutorsignup/. All of the LSS tutors are current UCSC students who have previously taken the course, have received a B or above, and have been recommended to be a tutor by a UCSC faculty member in the appropriate academic discipline.

**Tentative Reading and Lecture Schedule**

All the readings can be found in our Singer textbook unless otherwise noted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>(April 1 &amp; 3)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday:</strong></td>
<td>Introduction to our course</td>
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| **Wednesday:** | 1. Plato, “Morality as the Advantage of the Stronger…”  
5. Rousseau, “The Natural State of Man” |

Links to complete texts:

- Plato’s Republic: http://www.gutenberg.org/files/1497/1497-h/1497-h.htm
- Rousseau’s Discourse on Inequality: http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/11136/pg11136.html
### Week 2
(April 8 & 10)

**Response 1 due in section**

**Monday:**

**Wednesday:**
- 17. Ashworth, “Live and Let Live”

Links to complete texts:

- Hume’s *Enquiry Concerning the Principle of Morals*:
- Kant’s *Critique of Practical Reason*:
- Darwin’s *The Descent of Man*:
  [http://darwin-online.org.uk/EditorialIntroductions/Freeman_TheDescen tofMan.html](http://darwin-online.org.uk/EditorialIntroductions/Freeman_TheDescentofMan.html)
- Nietzsche’s *Beyond Good and Evil*:
  [http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4363](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4363)

### Week 3
(April 15)

**Response 2 due in section**

**Monday:**
- 22. Jesus, “Turn the Other Cheek”
- 23. Hillel, “The Whole Torah while Standing on One Foot”
- 25. Axelrod, “Tit for Tat”

**Wednesday:**
- No lecture, but sections still meet (I will be in Seattle for a conference)

Links to complete texts:

- Hillel, *The Babylonian Talmud: Shabbath*:
  [http://www.on1foot.org/text/babyloniantalmud-shabbat-31a](http://www.on1foot.org/text/babyloniantalmud-shabbat-31a)
- Axelrod: adaptation of excerpts from *The Evolution of Cooperation*:

### Week 4
(April 22 & 24)

**Response 3 due in section**

**Monday:**
- 33. Hume, “Reason and Passion”
- 34. Kant, “Pure Practical Reason and the Moral Law”

**Wednesday:**
- Hume & Kant cont’d
Links to complete texts:

Hume’s *A Treatise on Human Nature*:

Kant’s *Fundamental Principles of (a.k.a Grounding for) the Metaphysic of Morals*:
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=360&chapter=61768&layout=html&Itemid=27

**Week 5**  
(April 29 & May 1)

**Monday:**  
38. Wittgenstein, “A Lecture on Ethics”

**Wednesday:**  
40. Sartre, “Condemned to Be Free”  
Focus on Singer’s excerpt from Sartre’s lecture, but I’d like you to read the entire lecture (link below).

Links to complete texts:

Sartre’s *Existentialism is a Humanism*:
http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm

**Week 6**  
(May 6 & May 8)

**Midterm Check-In**

**Response 4 due in section**

**Monday:**  
47. Aristotle, “The End for Human Nature”

**Wednesday:**  
59. Huxley, “The Right to Be Unhappy”
60. Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus”

Links to complete texts:

Aristotle’s *Nichomachean Ethics*:
http://www.constitution.org/ari/ethic_02.htm
Huxley’s *Brave New World*:
http://www.huxley.net/bnw/

**Week 7**  
(May 13 & May 15)

**Monday:**  
65. Locke, “Our Rights in the State of Nature”

**Wednesday:**  
73. Kant, “The Categorical Imperative”
74. Kant, “On a Supposed Right to Lie from Altruistic Motives”
74. Langton, “Maria von Herbert’s Challenge to Kant”
Links to complete texts:

**Locke’s Second Treatise on Civil Government**:
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=222&chapter=16239&layout=html&Itemid=27

Mill’s essay, “Nature”:
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=241&chapter=21521&layout=html&Itemid=27

**Kant’s Fundamental Principles of (a.k.a Grounding for) the Metaphysic of Morals**:
http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/5682/pg5682.html

Kant’s “On a Supposed Right to Lie...”:
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=360&chapter=61937&layout=html&Itemid=27

***Week 8*** (May 20 & 22)

**Response 5 due in section**

**Monday:**

Mill’s *Utilitarianism* (read excerpts available in eCommons under Resources)
82. Dostoevsky, “Ivan’s Challenge”
Optional recommended reading: Le Guin’s “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas” (available in eCommons under Resources -> Extra Readings Folder)

**Wednesday:**

Essay 2 due in lecture

84. Rawls, “The Separateness of Persons”
85. Williams, “Jim and the Indians”
86. Wolf, “Moral Saints”

Links to complete texts:

Bentham’s Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation:
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=278&chapter=20717&layout=html&Itemid=27

Mill’s *Utilitarianism*:
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=241&chapter=21500&layout=html&Itemid=27

Dostoevsky’s *Brothers Karamazov*: http://www.online-literature.com/dostoevsky/brothers_karamazov/

**Week 9** (May 29)

**Monday:**

No lecture, no section (university holiday; Memorial Day observed)

**Wednesday:**

89. Midgley, “Duties Concerning Islands”

**Week 10** (June 3 & June 5)

**Monday:**

Ethics & Disability (readings TBD and will be posted on eCommons)

**Wednesday:**

Ethics & Disability; wrap-up

**Final Exam: June 12th, 8am-11am**

Bring scantron & no. 2 pencil