Philosophy 142
Advanced Ethics
Spring 2016
MWF 11 – 12:10, Cowell 134

Instructor: Kyle Robertson (kxrobert@ucsc.edu)
Office: A107
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment.

Overview: This course is an advanced study of the topic of moral perception. We will read a variety of authors, mainly contemporary philosophers, covering a range of relevant topics including analogies with visual perception, moral realism, and the phenomenology of moral perception.

Required Texts: These texts are ordered at the Literary Guillotine.
• Audi, Robert. Moral Perception.
• Sayre-McCord, G. Essays on Moral Realism.
• Paul, L.A. Transformative Experience.
• Other readings will be made available by the instructor on eCommons.

Grading: Your grade will be based on a series of short papers.

• Three Short Papers: You will have three 3-page papers due over the course of the quarter. Each should range from 750-900 words. In each paper, develop a critical response to some aspect of the readings for one section of the course.

Each paper will be judged by the normal standards of an upper division philosophy course. Papers may be informed by classroom discussion, but must engage with a specific assigned text. Be as clear as you can be about what text you are discussing and what critical position you are taking. It is almost always best to narrow the focus of your paper as much as possible.

The papers cover:
• Paper 1: due April 13th. Discuss any reading before this date.
• Paper 2: due May 2nd. Discuss a reading between April 13 and May 2.
• Paper 3: due May 23rd. Discuss a reading between May 2 and May 23.
• **Final Paper:** For your final paper, you must revise and expand one of your three short papers. Your final paper should be about eight pages long, between 2000-2500 words.
  o You must consider my feedback on your earlier paper and substantially revise your paper in light of that feedback.
    ▪ Accordingly, you must submit the commented version of your earlier paper with your final paper.
  o You should also revise your paper in light of any material covered in class since you first wrote it.
  o You should not substantially expand the scope of the question you are addressing between your short and final papers. I am looking for an increase in the depth of your treatment of the same topic, not an increase in scope of the topic.

**Disability Accommodations:** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please notify the instructor by the end of the first full week of class and provide an authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Contact the DRC at 459-2089, online at [http://drc.ucsc.edu/](http://drc.ucsc.edu/), or at 125 Hahn Student Services.

**Academic Integrity:** We take academic dishonesty very seriously. Violations of the university policy on academic misconduct may be grounds for discipline by the university. For further details, see: [www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct](http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct).

**eCommons Policy:** I expect all students to check eCommons for announcements regularly. Class cancellations, reading changes, and assignments may be posted on eCommons. I will do my best to discuss all changes in class, but you are responsible for anything posted in the eCommons announcements.
**Tentative Schedule**
(any changes will be announced in class)

**Week 1:**

March 28 – Introduction
April 1 – Audi, Chapter 3: “Perception as a Direct Source of Moral Knowledge”, 51-66

**Week 2:**

April 4 – Review Audi Chapters 2 & 3.
April 6 – Ayer, “Critique of Ethics and Theology” (in Sayre-McCord)
April 8 – Williams, “Ethical Consistency” (in Sayre-McCord)

**Week 3:**

April 11 – Mackie, “The Subjectivity of Values” (In Sayre-McCord)
April 13 – *** Paper 1 due in class ***
   *Review Ayer, Williams, Mackie*
April 15 – NO CLASS – I will be in North Carolina for the National High School Ethics Bowl

**Week 4:**

April 18 – Wiggins, “Truth, Invention, and the Meaning of Life” (In Sayre-McCord)
April 20 – Review Wiggins
April 22 – McDowell, “Values and Secondary Qualities” (In Sayre-McCord)

**Week 5:**

April 25 – Prinz, “Is Getting Mad Like Seeing Red?” (on eCommons)
April 27 – Nussbaum, “Emotions as Judgment of Value” (on eCommons)
April 29 – Review McDowell, Prinz, and Nussbaum
Week 6:

May 2 – Boyd or Sturgeon from Sayre-McCord (not sure, I’ll decide which we read as we get closer)
May 4 – *** Paper 2 due in class ***
    Review all Sayre-McCord reading
May 6 – Paul, Chapters 1 and 2, 1-51

Week 7:

May 9 – Review Paul reading
May 13 – Paul, Chapter 4: “The Shock of the New”, 105-123.

Week 8:

May 16 – Review all of Paul reading. (We may read selected sections from the afterword)
May 18 – Audi, Chapter 4: “Perceptual Grounds, Ethical Disagreement, and Moral Intuitions”, 69-102.
May 20 – Audi, Chapter 5: “Moral Perception, Aesthetic Perception, and Intuitive Judgment”, 103-120.

Week 9:

May 23 – *** Paper 3 due in class ***
    Review Audi.
May 25 – Audi, Chapter 6: “Emotion and Intuition as Sources of Moral Judgment”, 121-142.

Week 10:

May 30 – TBD
June 1 – TBD
June 3 – TBD

Final Paper: Final papers are due the day of our Final Exam slot, Monday, June 6, by 5 p.m. Please email final papers directly to kxrobert@ucsc.edu.