Introduction to Ethical Theory

Philosophy 22
Winter 2016
MW 5:00pm – 6:45pm
Earth and Marine Sciences B206

Instructor

Janette Dinishak
Office: 105 Cowell Faculty Annex (the annex is south of Page Smith Library)
Office Hours: 2:00pm -3:45pm, Thursdays
Email: jdinisha@ucsc.edu

Teaching Assistants

David Donley: ddonley@ucsc.edu
James Gray: jwgray@ucsc.edu
Sean Hunter: ghunter@ucsc.edu
Cynthia Tibbetts: cmtibbet@ucsc.edu

Your TA will announce her or his office hours during your first section meeting in Week 2. TA office hours will also be posted on our course website in eCommons under Announcements during Week 2.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<td>Soc Sci 1 149</td>
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<td>02:00PM-03:10PM</td>
<td>Soc Sci 2 141</td>
<td>Sean</td>
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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, using autism as our case study.

General Education Requirements Satisfied: CC, IH

Readings


  *Ethics* (used and new) 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/).

  A copy of the text is also on reserve at McHenry Library circulation desk (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)

Course Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 1 (3 pgs.)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Jan 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2 (3 pgs.)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Feb 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section Attendance &amp; Reading Journal</td>
<td>5% (C/NC)</td>
<td>------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Monday March 14 (7:30-10:30pm)</td>
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Essays

Specific instructions and topics will be provided in lecture and uploaded under Resources in eCommons two weeks before each essay due date.

Section

Each student is assigned to a discussion group led by a teaching assistant (TA). Discussion sections will start meeting in Week 2 and continue to meet each week, including Week 10. Grading for section will be credit/no-credit. There are two requirements for section. Both requirements must be fulfilled to receive credit for section:

1. **Section Attendance** is mandatory. If you are not in section, you cannot participate. TAs will take attendance. Students who miss **three or more** sections meetings will not receive credit for section.

   **Note:** Attendance will not be taken at lecture, but some material may be available only to those who attend lecture.

2. **Weekly Reading Journal:** You will be required to submit **five** weekly journal entries to your TA during section. Your TA will discuss the details of this component of section during your first section meeting in Week 2.

**Section Participation:** Although participation will not be taken into account in determining your section grade (credit/no-credit), you are strongly encouraged to participate. You’re likely to do better in the class and enjoy it more if you actively engage with the material and discuss your responses to the material with your peers. Another way of looking at it is this: 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 while journaling; (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 TA after class. Or draw a cartoon or diagram that illustrates a concept from class and share it. Or share a question or comment with your TA by email. Or go to your TA’s office hours. Or come to mine. Or approach me during the lecture break. Or share an outside resource with me that I can incorporate in lecture (e.g., a relevant poem, song, or video clip).

Final Exam

The final exam is cumulative. It will consist of short answer and essay-style questions.
Other Course Information

1. **Students with diverse learning 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 in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. 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/](http://drc.ucsc.edu/).

2. **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 TA in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines.

3. **Plagiarism.** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on academic integrity ([https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will **not** be tolerated. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask me.


4. **Email policy:** Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to your TA **first**. This will facilitate record-keeping and communication. Your TA is also available via email. Keep e-copies of your correspondence. As always, I’m here too if you have any questions or concerns about anything related to our course. Email me directly at jdinisha@ucsc.edu 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.

5. **Extra help:** Learning Support Services (LSS) offers many academic programs to UCSC students (see [http://www2.ucsc.edu/lss/](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. All UCSC students are eligible for up to 1 hour of tutoring per week per course, and may sign-up for tutoring beginning **Friday, January 8**th here: [https://eop.sa.ucsc.edu/OTSS/tutorsignup/](https://eop.sa.ucsc.edu/OTSS/tutorsignup/). All of the LSS tutors are current UCSC undergraduate students who have previously taken the course, have received a B or above, and have been recommended by a UCSC faculty member in the appropriate academic discipline. This quarter Crissy will be assisting you.

6. **Swapping Sections:** In a group this large, informal swapping creates more administrative work for teaching assistants and increases the likelihood of record-keeping slip-ups. If you wish 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 are attending.

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

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

   Please contact the registrar for additional help with enrollment issues: [http://registrar.ucsc.edu/about/contact-us.html](http://registrar.ucsc.edu/about/contact-us.html).
Tentative Reading and Lecture Schedule

For the most up-to-date reading and lecture schedule, check the weekly Lecture Supplements “last time,” “this time,” and “next time” schedule notes.

Readings can be found in our Singer textbook unless otherwise noted in the schedule below.

Week 1 (Jan 4 & 6)

Monday: Course Introduction

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 (Jan 11 & 13)

Monday:

Wednesday:
13. Goodall, “Helping Kin in Chimpanzees”
17. Ashworth, “Live and Let Live”

Links to complete texts:
Nietzsche’s Beyond Good and Evil: http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/4363
Darwin’s The Descent of Man: http://darwin-online.org.uk/EditorialIntroductions/Freeman_TheDescentofMan.html

Week 3 (Jan 18 & Jan 20)

Monday: No Class; Martin Luther King’s Day Observed

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

Links to complete texts:

Hillel, The Babylonian Talmud: Shabbath: http://www.on1foot.org/text/babyloniantalmud-shabbat-31a

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<th>Week 4</th>
<th>(Jan 25 &amp; Jan 27)</th>
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34. Kant, “Pure Practical Reason and the Moral Law” |
| Wednesday:| Hume & Kant cont’d |
| Essay 1 due in lecture |

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

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<th>Week 5</th>
<th>(Feb 1 &amp; Feb 3)</th>
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| Wednesday:| Wittgenstein cont’d  
40. Sartre, “Condemned to Be Free” (the full lecture is required reading; see link below) |

Link to complete text:

Sartre’s “Existentialism is a Humanism”: http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre.Works/Exist/sartre.htm

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<th>Week 6</th>
<th>(Feb 8 &amp; Feb 10)</th>
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<td>Monday:</td>
<td>Sartre cont’d</td>
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| Wednesday:| 47. Aristotle, “The End for Human Nature”  

Links to complete texts:

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<th>Week 7</th>
<th>(Feb 15 &amp; Feb 17)</th>
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<td><strong>Monday:</strong></td>
<td>No Class; President’s Day Observed</td>
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| **Wednesday:** | 59. Huxley, “The Right to Be Unhappy”  
60. Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus” |

Link to complete text:

Huxley’s *Brave New World*: [http://www.huxley.net/bnw/](http://www.huxley.net/bnw/)

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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>(Feb 22 &amp; Feb 24)</th>
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| **Monday:** | 61. Nozick, “The Experience Machine”  
73. Kant, “The Categorical Imperative”  
74. Kant, “On a Supposed Right to Lie from Altruistic Motives” |
| **Wednesday:** | Essay 2 due in lecture  
75. Langton, “Maria von Herbert’s Challenge to Kant”  
Mill’s *Utilitarianism* (required excerpts available in eCommons under Resources → Required Readings folder) |

Links to complete texts:

Kant’s *Fundamental Principles of (a.k.a. Grounding for) the Metaphysic of Morals*:  

Kant’s “On a Supposed Right to Lie…”:  

Bentham’s *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*:  

Mill’s *Utilitarianism*:  

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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>(Feb 29 &amp; Mar 2)</th>
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| **Monday:** | Mill cont’d  
82. Dostoevsky, “Ivan’s Challenge”  
Optional recommended reading: Le Guin’s “The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas” (available in eCommons under Resources → Extra Stuff folder) |
| **Wednesday:** | 85. Williams, “Jim and the Indians”  
86. Wolf, “Moral Saints”  

Links to complete texts:
Dostoevsky’s *Brothers Karamazov*: [http://www.online-literature.com/dostoevsky/brothers_karamazov/](http://www.online-literature.com/dostoevsky/brothers_karamazov/)

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<th>Week 10</th>
<th>(Mar 7 &amp; Mar 9)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday:</strong></td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Disability (required readings available in eCommons under Resources ➔ Required Readings ➔ Week 10 folder)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday:</strong></td>
<td>Ethics &amp; Disability; wrap-up</td>
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**Final Exam: Monday, March 14, 7:30-10:00pm**

*Bring blue books*