Introduction to Ethical Theory

Philosophy 22
Fall 2017
MW 5:20pm – 6:55pm
Humanities Lecture Hall (Humanities 3, Room 206)

Sections will begin meeting in Week 2.

Instructor

Janette Dinishak
Office: 105 Cowell Faculty Annex (the annex is south of Page Smith Library)
Office Hours: 1:00pm -3:00pm, Thursdays
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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 Requirement Satisfied: CC

Readings

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

  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/.

  A few copies of the text are also on reserve at McHenry Library circulation desk (2-hour loan period).

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

  The reading and lecture schedule will be posted on Canvas at our first lecture meeting.

Course Requirements	Weight	Due Dates
Essay 1 (3 pgs.)	30%	Oct 25
Essay 2 (3 pgs.)	30%	Nov 22
Section Attendance & Reading Journal	5% (C/NC)	--------
Final Exam	35%	Dec 13 (7:30-10:30pm)

Other Course Information

1. **Students with diverse learning needs are welcome in this course!** UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a 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, **as soon as possible** in the academic quarter, preferably within 1 week. I also am open to and want to encourage you to discuss with me ways I/we can ensure your full participation in this course. If you have not already done so, I encourage you to learn more about the many services offered by the DRC. You can visit their website (http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.html), make an appointment, and meet in-person with a DRC staff member. The phone number is 831-459-2089 or email 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. **All course requirements must be fulfilled**. Any student who fails to do so will not pass the course. If you're struggling to fulfill the requirements for any reason, please talk with me during my office hours about your situation.

4. **Academic integrity**. Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC's statement on academic integrity (https://registrar.ucsc.edu/navigator/section1/academic-integrity.html) and policies and procedures regarding 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.

   Some helpful tips can be found here: "How Not to Plagiarize":
   http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/images/stories/Documents/how-not-to-plagiarize.pdf

5. **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.

   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.

6. **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 6 people per group) led by a tutor. All UCSC students are eligible for up to 2 hours of tutoring per week, and may sign-up for tutoring beginning **Friday, October 6**[th]

at 5:00 pm at the Slug Success website: https://sserc.ucsc.edu/slug-success. 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 Kyra will be assisting you.

7. **Laptops and other electronic devices**. The success of our class depends on you being present, not just physically but also in terms of engagement and focus. In an effort to promote focus and limit distractions, students are asked to "unplug" for class. The use of laptops, cell phones, iPads, and other electronic devices are not permitted during class time. If you need to use a laptop or other electronic device during class due to learning differences or other legitimate reason, please consult with me and I will consider making an exception.

8. **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

FAQs Student Enrollment Questions:
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.