Philosophy 160 – Ethical theory

Spring 2013 - TuTh 3:30 - 4:50, TM102

Prof. Saba Bazargan
sbazargan@ucsd.edu
Office: HSS, 8061

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop a mastery of two theories in normative ethics: Consequentialism and Deontology. We will focus on modern rather than historical analyses and criticisms of these theories.

Grading

Tests - There will be two take-home exams. They will be worth 40% and 60% of your total grade, respectively. The first exam will consist of a set of short-answer questions from which you will be required to answer a certain number of them. The second exam will be a more lengthy paper. Each exam will be turned in electronically.

Attendance - I will not take attendance. However, it is in your interest to show up to class. The readings can be quite difficult; the purpose of lecture is to elucidate and supplement these readings. In addition, much of what will be on the test will be taken from lecture, and will not be covered in the readings.

Excuses - Extensions to an exam's due date will be granted for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Extensions will also be granted for very serious emergencies (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards. Otherwise, exams will be docked 6.6% for every day that they are late (including weekends).

Grading Scale:

points	grade
12	A+
11	A
10	A-
9	B+
8	B
7	B-
6	C+
5	C
4	C-
3	D+
2	D
1	D-
0	F

Reading

All readings will be available electronically here: https://sites.google.com/site/bazarganthings/phil160 There is not much reading for this course. But you are expected to read the material very carefully and more than once.

Academic Integrity

Any violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Details regarding what counts as cheating can be found here: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. Consult the site or an instructor if you have any doubts or questions regarding what counts as cheating. All research papers will be run through the Turnitin service, which will determine whether the author has plagiarized from other papers or from Internet sources.

Contact

I am available at my office hours (HSS 8061) every Thursday from 1 to 2:30. If you cannot attend at that time, you should feel free to make an appointment by talking to me in person, or by contacting me by email.

Readings & Topics

We will cover the following topics and readings in the order presented below. We will spend as much time as necessary to master each of the readings.

Introduction: Consequentialism and Deontology
- (no readings)

Utilitarianism and its Critics
- Bernard Williams – selections from *Utilitarianism: For & Against*
- John Rawls – selections from *A Theory of Justice*

Honoring versus Promoting Values
- Philip Pettit – 'Consequentialism'

Agent-Centered Constraints and Deontology
- Robert Nozick – selections from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
- Thomas Nagel – selections from *The View From Nowhere*
- Samuel Scheffler – selections from *The Rejection of Consequentialism*
- Stephen Darwall – 'Agent-Centered Restrictions From the Inside Out'

Self-Effacing Consequentialism
- Peter Railton – 'Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality'
- Derek Parfit – selection from *Reasons and Persons*

Non-Maximizing Consequentialism
- Michael Slote – 'Satisficing Consequentialism (Part 1)'
- Philip Pettit – 'Satisficing Consequentialism (Part 2)'

Teleological Theories
- John Broome – selections from *Weighing Lives*
- Jennie Louise – 'Relativity of Value and the Consequentialist Umbrella'