

Phil 90 Basic Problems in Philosophy

Syllabus
Winter 2017
MWF 1:00-1:50 pm
Mandeville Auditorium
Room B-104

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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: Mon./Wed 11:00 am-12:00 pm

1. Overview

This class addresses dietary ethics, particularly as it pertains to killing and eating animals. In recent decades philosophers have devoted extensive attention to questions involving animals and food ethics. Are animals harmed by death? Is it appropriate to kill them for food if done painlessly? Is locavorism a defensible dietary ethic? Is there anything wrong with artificial ingredients? The class will explore opposing views on these and other questions related to food, in a manner that assumes no background in philosophy.

2. Assessment

A Short assignment of 400 words due Friday January 20 (5%)

A 1,000-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday January 31 (25%)

A 1,000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday February 21 (25%)

Final cumulative exam (35%)

Class participation (10%)

3. Readings and Schedule

Students are required to obtain a copy of each of the following books:

Andrew Chignell, Terrence Cuneo and Matthew Halteman, eds. *Philosophy Comes to Dinner: Arguments About the Ethics of Eating* (New York: Routledge, 2015).

Tatjana Visak and Robert Gardner, eds. *The Ethics of Killing Animals* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015.)

Both books are available at the UCSD bookstore.

1. Week of January 9: Introduction to Animal Ethics

Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation* (New York: Random House, 1975), 1-23.

No class Friday.

2. Week of January 16: Dietary Ideals I

No class Monday.

Terence Cuneo, "Conscientious Omnivorism," *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 21-38.

Benjamin J. Bruxvoort Lipscomb, 'Eat Responsibly': Agrarianism and Meat, *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 56-72.

Short assignment due Friday January 20 5:00 pm.

3. Week of January 23: Dietary Ideals II

Tristram McPherson, "Why I am a Vegan (And You Should Be One Too)," *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 73-91.

Anne Barnhill, "Does Locavorism Keep it Too Simple?" *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 232-53.

Friday: Essay clinic.

4. Week of January 30: Consumer Ethics

First Essay Due: Tuesday January 31 5:00 pm

Mark Bryant Budolfson, "Consumer Ethics, Harm Footprints, and the Empirical Dimensions of Food Choices," *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 163-81.

Andrew Chignell, "Can We Really Vote with Our Forks? Opportunism and the Threshold Chicken," *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 182-202.

Adrienne Marti, "Factory Farming and Consumer Complicity," *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 203-14.

5: Week of February 6: The Ethics of Nature

Jeff McMahan, "The Moral Problem of Predation," *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 268-94.

David Kaplan, "What's Wrong With Artificial Ingredients?" *Philosophy Comes to Dinner*, 254-67.

No Class Friday.

6. Week of February 13: Animals and The Harm of Death I

T.J. Kasperbauer & Peter Sandøe, "Killing as a Welfare Issue," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 17-31.

Christopher Belshaw, "Death, Pain and Animal Life," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 32-50.

7. Week of February 20: Animals and The Harm of Death II

No Class Monday.

Ben Bradley, "Is Death Bad for a Cow?" *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 51-64.

Jeff McMahan, "The Comparative Badness for Animals of Suffering and Death," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 65-85.

Second Essay Due: Tuesday February 21 5:00 pm

8. Week of February 27: Animals and the Harm of Death III

Steven Luper, "Animal Interests," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 86-100.

Nils Holtung, "The Value of Coming Into Existence," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 101-16.

9. Week of March 6: Moral Evaluations of Killing Animals I

Tatjana Visek, "Do Utilitarians Need To Accept the Replaceability Argument?" *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 117-135.

Shelly Kagan, "Singer on Killing Animals," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 136-153.

10. Week of March 13: Moral Evaluations of Killing Animals II

Christine Korsgaard, "A Kantian Case for Animal Rights," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 154-177.

Frederike Kaldewaij, "Kantian Constructivism and the Ethics of Killing Animals," *The Ethics of Killing Animals*, 178-97.

Friday exam review.

Final Exam: Week of March 20: See exam schedule on Tritonlink.

4. General Information

4a Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. Drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available immediately after class or by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

4b Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

4c Late Work

For all assignments handed in late without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your professor. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

4d Accommodation for Disability

I am happy to provide accommodation to students with disabilities, whether physical or mental. Students requesting accommodations should provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone); osd@ucsd.edu (email); disabilities.ucsd.edu (web).

4e Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without

unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/appendices/2>

4f Technology in the Classroom

Please note that until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in lecture. Your TA will let you know what the policy is in discussion group.

4g Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

4h Exams

All students except those with an OSD exemption are required to take the exam on the scheduled day and time.