

Philosophy 160 – Ethical theory

Spring 2019 - TuTh 11:00 - 12:20, SEQUO 148

Prof. Saba Bazargan-Forward

sbazargan@ucsd.edu

Office: HSS, 8061

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to develop a mastery of Consequentialist theories of ethics. We will focus on modern rather than historical analyses and criticisms of these theories.

Grading

<p><i>Tests</i> - There will be two take-home exams. They will be worth 40% and 60% of your total grade, respectively. Each will consist of a set of short-answer questions. I will provide prompts about ten days prior to each exam's due date. You will turn in each exam via Turnitin on the course's TritonEd page. Each exam will only cover material presented after the previous exam. The second exam will be due during finals week. Both exams will be the same length and will cover roughly the same amount of material. You will be docked a total of five points on each test for major grammar errors. ESL speakers should speak to me for special accommodations.</p> <p><i>Excuses</i> - I will grant extensions to an exam's due date for serious emergencies provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards, and for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Otherwise, exams will be docked five points for every day that they are late (including weekends).</p>	<p>GRADING SCALE</p> <p>97-100 A+</p> <p>93-96.9 A</p> <p>90-92.9 A-</p> <p>87-89.9 B+</p> <p>83-86.9 B</p> <p>80-82.9 B-</p> <p>77-79.9 C+</p> <p>73-76.9 C</p> <p>70-72.9 C-</p> <p>67-69.9 D+</p> <p>63-66.9 D</p> <p>60-62.9 D-</p> <p>0-59.9 F</p>
---	---

Reading

All readings are available on the class's TritonEd page. The readings are not extensive, but they *are* difficult. Part of the purpose of lecture is to help you comprehend and analyze the reading. Note that for some of the readings, you will be required to read particular pages and selections only. The relevant pages and selections will be indicated in the electronic copy of the readings.

Technology

The use of laptops, tablets, and cell phones will not be allowed while class is in session.

Contact

I am available at my office hours (HSS 8061) on Tuesdays from 1:00-2:30. I'm also available by appointment. If you miss a lecture, please do not contact me to ask what you missed. **Please note that I might not receive emails sent from addresses other than your official UCSD email.**

Academic Integrity

Any suspected 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 me if you have questions about 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.

Special Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations due to a disability should provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please arrange to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations can be arranged. For further info, see: disabilities.ucsd.edu

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

- (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’
- Jennie Louise – ‘Relativity of Value and the Consequentialist Umbrella’

Agent-Centered Constraints and Deontology

- Robert Nozick – selections from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*
- 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*

Incommensurability

- Ruth Chang – ‘Incommensurability, Incomparability, and Practical Reason’ (introduction)

Rule Consequentialism

- Richard Brandt – ‘Some Merits of One Form of Utilitarianism’
- Brad Hooker – ‘Ideal Code, Real World’ - Ch.1