

## Phil 27 Ethics & Society

Syllabus  
Winter 2025  
MW 12:00-12:50 pm  
Center Hall  
Room 119

Andy Lamey  
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Office: RWAC 0491  
Drop-in hours: Tu. 12:30-1:30/W. 1:00-2:00 pm

*The best way to contact Prof. Lamey is in person or by email (I don't check Canvas messenger).*

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Sections</i>
Esraa Wasel	<a href="mailto:ewasel@ucsd.edu">ewasel@ucsd.edu</a>	<b>M 1:00 pm (A03)</b> <b>W 10:00 am (A04)</b>
Daniel Cohen	<a href="mailto:djcohen@ucsd.edu">djcohen@ucsd.edu</a>	<b>W 9:00 am (A05)</b> <b>W 4:00 pm (A06)</b>
Subin Park	<a href="mailto:sup017@ucsd.edu">sup017@ucsd.edu</a>	<b>F 12:00 pm (A01)</b> <b>F 11:00 am (A02)</b>

### 1. Overview

This class investigates issues of justice as they relate to two broad themes, redistribution and identity. We will examine four influential theories of distributive justice, which address the question of whether or not the state should redistribute wealth. If not, why not? If so, based on what principles? We will also turn our attention to issues that hinge on questions of identity in one form or another, as they pertain to race, immigration, national minorities and deafness understood as culture. A running theme of the class will be noting how theories that were originally put forward to address distributive justice have been repurposed by later thinkers to address questions of identity. The class assumes no background in philosophy and students who put in the necessary effort can do well.

### 2. Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due at 5:00 pm Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> (20%)

A 2,000-word essay due at 5:00 pm Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> (25%)

An in-person exam Wednesday March 19 (30%)

In-lecture iclicker participation (10%)

Section Participation (5% attendance + 10% informed participation = 15%)\*

\*Students who miss more than two section meetings without an excuse will receive an attendance grade of zero.

Please note that there is a strong penalty for using ChatGPT to create or partially create written work for this class. Students who are found to have done so will receive a class grade of F (fail).

### **3. Readings and Schedule**

All readings will be available on Canvas.

Week One: Introduction to Phil 27 and Cultural Relativism

Monday no reading.

Wed: Rachels, James and Stuart Rachels. "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism." *The Elements of Moral Philosophy, Eighth Edition* (Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2010): 15-32.

Week Two Utilitarianism and Justice as Fairness

Mon: Mill, John Stuart. "What Utilitarianism Is." *On Liberty and Utilitarianism* (London: David Campbell, 1992): 117-136.

Wed: Rawls, John. A Theory of Justice, in George Sher (ed.) *Moral Philosophy: Selected Readings* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987), 453-72.

Week Three Justice as Fairness cont.

No class Monday (MLK Day)

Wed: Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1971): 65-83.

Week Four Libertarianism

Mon: Nozick, Robert. Distributive Justice. *Anarchy State and Utopia* (New York: Basic Books, 1974): 149-82.

**First Essay Due Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm**

Wed: Carens, Joseph. Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders. *The Review of Politics* 49 / 2 (1987): 251-273.

Week Five Calculation Debates

Hayek, Friedrich. The Use of Knowledge in Society. *The American Economic Review*, 35 / 4 (1945): 519-530.

Sunstein, Cass R., The AI Calculation Debate (December 13, 2024). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5054402>

#### Week Six Equality of Resources

Dworkin, Ronald. Equality of Resources. *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10/4 (1981): 283-314.

Dworkin, Ronald. Equality of Resources. *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10/4 (1981): 315-345.

#### Week Seven Amnesty

No class Monday (President's Day).

Carens, Joseph. The Case For Amnesty. *Boston Review* (2009), May 1: 1-12.

#### Week Eight National Minorities

Mon: Kymlicka, Will. Equality for Minority Cultures, *Liberalism, Community and Culture* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989): 182-205.

#### **Second Essay Due Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm**

Wed: Kymlicka, Will. Freedom and Culture. *Multicultural Citizenship: A Liberal Theory of Minority Rights* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995): 75-106.

#### Week Nine Race and Deafness

Heath, Joseph. Why are Racial Problems in the United States so Intractable? *American Affairs* (2021) 5/3.

Wed: Sparrow, Robert. Defending Deaf Culture: The Case of Cochlear Implants. *Journal of Political Philosophy* 13 (2005): 135-152.

#### Week Ten Democratic Equality

Anderson, Elizabeth. What Is the Point of Equality? *Ethics* 109/2 (1999): 287-311.

Anderson, Elizabeth. What Is the Point of Equality? *Ethics*: 312-337.

#### **In-person exam Wednesday March 19 11:30 am**

### **4. General Information**

*Student Drop-in Hours*

I am happy to meet with students during my drop-in hours, during which students should feel free to drop in without an appointment. I'm also available by appointment outside of these hours. I'm always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

### *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 an exam or other assignment due during exam week that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the assignment deadline.
- b) Requests to discuss or adjust grades. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter. If you are graduating let me know and we will make alternative arrangements.

### *One-time Discretionary Extension*

We are happy to grant each student one essay extension of 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension your TA needs to receive your request before noon (San Diego time) on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the day before the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be graded and returned 48 hours after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation. Also please note that discretionary extensions are NOT available for assignments due during exam-week.

Finally, discretionary extensions are not available to students who have more than two unexcused absences from section.

### *Late Work*

For all essays handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percentage point penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percentage points 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 14 calendar days. 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.

Note that non-essay assignments (e.g. Perusall assignments or online quizzes, if this class has either) are likely to have different lateness penalties. If so these will normally be outlined in the first class.

### *Accommodation for Disability*

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must 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)

### *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 <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html>

### *Health and Well-being*

During your time at UCSD, you may experience a range of issues that can negatively impact your learning. These may include physical illness, housing or food insecurity, strained relationships, loss of motivation, depression, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol and drug problems, feeling down, interpersonal or sexual violence, or grief.

These concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and affect your ability to participate in day-to-day activities. If there are issues related to coursework that are a source of particular stress or challenge, please speak with me, Professor's Lamey, so that I am able to support you. UC San Diego provides a number of resources to all enrolled students, including:

Counselling and Psychological Services (858-534-3755 | caps.ucsd.edu)  
Student Health Services (858-534-3300 | studenthealth.ucsd.edu)  
CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (858-534-5793 | care.ucsd.edu)  
The Hub Basic Needs Center (858-246-2632 | basicneeds.ucsd.edu)

We care about you at UC San Diego, and there is always help available.