

Philosophy 22                      Introduction to Ethical Theory  
MW 2:30-4:35 PM, Public Affairs 2270

Summer 2018, A Session

Instructor:                      Jenna Donohue                      jdonohue@humnet.ucla.edu<sup>1</sup>                      317 Dodd Hall  
OH: Mondays 1 – 2 pm and Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:30 pm

Teaching Assistant:      Chad Serrao

Course Description:

Ethical theories try to answer broad moral questions, such as “What actions are required?,” “Which actions are permissible?,” “What is it to lead a good life?,” and “How must we treat other people, in a world that we share?” In this class, students will be introduced to three of the major prevailing ethical theories: (1) consequentialism, (2) deontology, and (3) contractualism. We will read arguments in favor of these theories, discuss their responses to some of these overarching moral questions, and consider the most serious objections these theories face. After considering these ethical theories, we will consider three applied ethical issues and how each theory considered might respond to the questions raised by the topic. Along the way, we will practice philosophy and work to improve philosophical skills such as asking good questions, explaining philosophical arguments, and criticizing arguments. Students will be expected to engage with these issues both by participating in lecture and section and by completing writing exercises throughout the session.

A Note About the Course Workload and Pace:

Please understand that this course only meets over the course of six weeks, but it is intended to cover the same amount of material and workload as a course that meets for ten weeks plus a finals week. This means that you should expect the course to require more reading per class than a course that meets during the regular quarter and to expect more material to be covered during each lecture than would be covered during a lecture for a course during the regular quarter. We meet only 10 times, not including our final exam meeting. A course during the regular quarter normally meets 20 times, not including the meeting for the final exam. So you should expect to do approximately *twice* as much reading *per meeting* as you would expect to do during the regular quarter.

Texts:

Smart, J. J. C., and Bernard Williams, *Utilitarianism: For and Against* (Cambridge [Eng.]: University Press, 1973)

Other readings will be made available on the course website.

Course Website: <https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/181A-PHILOS22-1>

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<sup>1</sup> Please use email only for simple administrative purposes such as setting up appointments. I strongly encourage you to come by and talk to me personally about philosophical issues and more involved personal or academic issues.

### Graded Course Assignments:

10% Weekly Reading Responses

5% Timely Extras

10% Peer Review Assignments

10% Participation

15% Paper 1: 3-5 pages

25% Paper 2: 5-7 pages

25% Final Exam

Weekly Reading Responses: Weeks 1-5 you have the opportunity to write a  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 page (double-spaced) response to one of the week's readings. Your response should be turned before the beginning of Monday's lecture (except week 1, when it is due at the beginning of Wednesday's lecture) to turnitin via the relevant link on the course website. In your response, you can raise a question, contribute a thought, agree or disagree with the author's argument, etc. The response is NOT a summary of the reading. The response should show that you have critically engaged with the reading. The responses will be graded on a pass/fail basis. [4 pass: A, 3 pass: A-, 2 pass: B+, 1 or fewer pass: no credit.]

Timely Extras: There are two “**Timely Extras**” assignments. The first is due by 5 pm the Friday of week 2, and the second is due by 5 pm the Friday of week 4. You are encouraged to submit them whenever they occur to you (in advance of the deadline). A Timely Extra might be a news story, a scene from a novel, or even a conversation you had with someone outside the course—anything relevant to the material we are studying. To submit it, go to the course website, find the discussion board for your discussion section, find the topic entitled “Timely Extra 1” (or 2 if relevant), and post your Timely Extra as a comment. Write a description of your “Timely Extra” and explain how it relates to what we have studied. They should be short:  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1 page (double-spaced). (Only Timely Extras with complete descriptions and compelling explanations will receive credit.) Provide links, where possible. Timely Extras will be graded pass/fail and are worth 5% of the overall course grade.

Participation: Participation is worth 10% of the grade. In order to receive full participation credit, students **must** attend and participate in the discussion section in which they have enrolled.

Peer Review Assignment: Each round of peer review is worth 5% of the course grade. For each of the two assigned papers, each student will review his or her own paper and two other papers, using the PeerMark function of turnitin. Reviews will not affect paper grades but will be graded pass/fail. Students who do not complete their three reviews (or who do not do so in good faith) will earn 0%. Students who do complete their three reviews in good faith will earn the full 5%.

Papers: Drafts of the papers are due to turnitin only. (To submit, please go to the course website and click on the relevant turnitin submission link.) Final drafts of papers are due *both* in lecture *and* through turnitin, on the day specified. It is the student's responsibility *both* to upload an electronic copy to turnitin before lecture *and* to bring a hard copy to lecture. I will collect the papers at the break during lecture. Papers that are late *in either format* are considered to have been turned in on the next day and will be penalized  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a grade for each day late (including weekend days). The same late policy applies to the drafts; late penalties for drafts will be

charged against the grade of the final paper. Email submissions will not be accepted. Under appropriate circumstances, extensions may be granted, if arranged 48 hours or more in advance of the time the paper is due. Contact me via email or in person to arrange such an extension. Extensions will not be granted within 48 hours, short of a documented medical or family emergency.

Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Assignments:

Week 1

Monday, June 25: Introduction to the Course  
Consequentialism and Utilitarianism

**Required Reading:** *Utilitarianism, For and Against*, pages 1-67 – [Smart, “An outline of a system of utilitarian ethics”]

**Optional Reading:** “Consequentialism,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consequentialism/>

***Paper 1 assignment passed out***

Wednesday, June 27: Consequentialism and Utilitarianism, Continued: Objections

**Required Reading:** *Utilitarianism, For and Against*, pages 75-150 – [Williams, “A critique of utilitarianism”]

Week 2

Monday, July 2: Concluding Consequentialism

Mini-Unit: Moral Relativism and Moral Skepticism

**Required Reading:** Thomson, “The Trolley Problem”

“Moral Relativism,” *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Selections

**Tuesday, July 3 at 11:59 PM: Paper 1 Draft Due ONLINE TO TURNITIN**

***Begin PeerMark Assignment***

Wednesday, July 4: University Holiday, **NO CLASS**

### Week 3

Monday, July 9: Kantian Ethics, Part 1

**Required Reading:** *The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Selections from Section II  
Pages 19-36

**Optional Reading:** “Deontological Ethics,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-deontological/>

***PeerMark of Paper 1 due***

Wednesday, July 11: Kantian Ethics, Part 2

**Required Reading:** *The Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Selections from Section II  
Pages 36-51 (but **strongly** suggest re-reading the whole document as  
uploaded)

**Paper 1 FINAL DRAFT due BOTH Online and IN CLASS by 2:30 PM on 7/11/2018**  
**Paper 2 assignment passed out**

### Week 4

Monday, July 16: Contractualism

**Required Reading:** Scanlon, “Contractualism and Utilitarianism”  
Full reference: Thomas Scanlon, ‘Contractualism and Utilitarianism’, in  
*Utilitarianism and Beyond*, ed. by Amartya Sen and Bernard Williams, 1st  
edition (Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1982), pp.  
103–28.

**Optional Reading:** “Contractualism,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*  
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/contractualism/>

Wednesday, July 18: Reparations

**Required Reading:** “The Case for Reparations,” Ta-Nehisi Coates  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

“Black Reparations,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

**Thursday, July 19 at 11:59 PM: Paper 2 Draft Due ONLINE TO TURNITIN**  
**Begin PeerMark Assignment**

## Week 5

Monday, July 23: Lying

**Required Reading:** Charles Fried, *Right and Wrong*, pp. 54-69  
Seana Shiffrin, Chapter 1 of *Speech Matters*

### ***PeerMark of Paper 2 due***

Wednesday, July 25: Abortion

**Required Reading:** Judith Jarvis Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”  
Don Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”

***Paper 2 FINAL DRAFT due BOTH Online and IN CLASS by 2:30 PM on 7/25/2018***  
***Final Exam Review Questions Handed out in class***

## Week 6

Monday, July 30: Review Day: Final Exam Review Session

Wednesday, August 1: **Final Exam**

### **Some helpful campus resources:**

\*Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): (310) 825-0768 (in Wooden Center West): High-quality counseling and stress-management services. Drop-in and by appointment. Also offers 24-hour crisis management over the phone.

\*Undergraduate Writing Center: (310) 206-1320; [wcenter@ucla.edu](mailto:wcenter@ucla.edu); A61 Humanities (Mon-Thurs 10 am – 6 pm; Fri 10 am – 3 pm; 50-minute appointments) / 228 Powell (Mon-Thurs 6-9 pm; 50-minute appointments) / 115 Rieber Hall (for on-campus residents only; Sun-Thurs 7-9 pm; 50 and 25-minute appointments). Provides free writing assistance to students: offers one-on-one sessions on their writing. You can discover ways to start your paper, discuss your writing in-person or online, learn new editing strategies, and become a confident writer. Make an appointment at [www.wp.ucla.edu](http://www.wp.ucla.edu). Click on “Schedule an Appointment” under the “Undergraduate Writing Center” menu or drop-in during scheduled hours.

\*Center for Accessible Education (Previously known as the Office for Students with Disabilities): Students needing academic accommodations based on a disability should

contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) at (310) 825-1501 or in person at Murphy Hall A255. When possible, students should contact CAE within the first two weeks of the term as reasonable notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. For more information visit [www.cae.ucla.edu](http://www.cae.ucla.edu).

**(If you have a disability and need accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible and make arrangements with this office.)**

\* Academic Advancement Program: Services and support for members of all historically underrepresented populations and for low income students of all ethnicities. (310) 206-1551; (310) 825-1481. Open Mon-Fri from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

\* Office of Ombuds Services: You may ask this office for assistance with problems pertaining to the abuse of power at the university, academic dishonesty, grade disputes, racial or gender insensitivity or harassment, or violations of the university policies or procedures. Its services are independent, neutral, confidential, and informal. (310) 825-7627; Strathmore Building, 501 Westwood Plaza, Ste. 105.

\* Scholarship Resource Center: (310) 206-2875; 233 Covell Commons; Hours: 11 am – 6 pm (5 pm summer) (M-F); Provides free scholarship information, workshops, resources, and support services to all UCLA students, regardless of financial aid eligibility.

\* Information about what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it:

<http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/plagiarism/avoid>

(Please do not plagiarize. I will not hesitate to send you to the Dean. If you are unsure as to whether something might count as plagiarism, please come see me: I'd be happy to talk to you.)

\* CARE: Sexual Violence Prevention & Response: Campus Assault Resources & Education (CARE) is a safe place for student survivors of sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking to get support, consultation, and to have a confidential place to talk. CARE offers free, confidential services to all currently enrolled students. You can contact a CARE advocate at (310) 794-4959 or [CAREadvocate@caps.ucla.edu](mailto:CAREadvocate@caps.ucla.edu) or go here for more information: <http://www.careprogram.ucla.edu/>. The CARE Advocates are located in the CARE office in John Wooden Center West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.