

## Phil 27: Ethics and Society (Provisional)

Spring 2024

### Instructor

Reuven Brandt

Class time: M, W 11:00-12:00, WLH 2005

Office Hours: Wed. 1:00-2:00PM Arts and Humanities Bld Room 497

Email: [rbrandt@ucsd.edu](mailto:rbrandt@ucsd.edu) (Put Phil 27 in subject line)

### Teaching assistants:

Shelly Shi <a href="mailto:shis007@ucsd.edu">shis007@ucsd.edu</a>	Marcus Mcgahhey <a href="mailto:mmcgahhe@ucsd.edu">mmcgahhe@ucsd.edu</a>	Huadian Liu <a href="mailto:hul010@ucsd.edu">hul010@ucsd.edu</a>
Office hours: TBD	Office hours: TBD	Office hours: TBD

### Course description:

This class is an introduction to philosophical approaches to contemporary questions in applied ethics. In the first portion of the class we will be examining three theoretical approaches to ethical questions: Scepticism about morality, Mill's utilitarianism, and Ross' pluralistic deontology. With this theoretical background in place we will then move to examining questions that arise in applied ethics. The first two questions we will look at pertain to parenthood. We will look at whether parents ought to be licensed, and what kind of future parents must ensure for their children. Next we will look at whether drugs should be legal, what we owe to others, and how we should police speech.

### Readings (All available on the course website)

	Monday	Wednesday
Week 1	April 1 <sup>st</sup> Intro – no readings	April 3 <sup>rd</sup> Shafer-Landau, Part II Ch 1-5, from Shafer-Landau, Russ. <i>Whatever happened to good and evil?</i> . New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
Week 2	April 8 <sup>th</sup> Shafer-Landau, Part II Ch. 6-9	April 10 <sup>th</sup> Shafer Landau, Part III Ch. 6-8.
Week 3	April 15 <sup>th</sup> Excerpt from Mill's <i>Utilitarianism</i>	April 17 <sup>th</sup> "What makes right actions Right", <i>The Right and the Good</i> , Ross

Week 4	April 22 <sup>nd</sup> Midterm 1	April 24 <sup>th</sup> Pandemic
Week 5	April 29 <sup>th</sup> LaFolette, "Licensing Parents"	May 1 <sup>st</sup> Frisch "On licentious licensing: A reply to Hugh LaFollette"
Week 6	May 6 <sup>th</sup> Feinberg, "The Child's Right to an Open Future"	May 8 <sup>th</sup> C Mills, "The Child's Right to an Open Future?"
Week 7	May 13 <sup>th</sup> Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"	May 15 <sup>th</sup> Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics"
Week 8	May 20 <sup>th</sup> Roberts, "Recreational Drug Use and the Value of Community"	May 22 <sup>nd</sup> Corlett, "Taking Drugs Very Seriously"
Week 9	May 27 <sup>th</sup> <b>NO CLASS</b>	May 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>Open topic</b>
Week 10	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> Rini, Regina. "Fake news and partisan epistemology." Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal 27.2 (2017): E-43.	June 5 <sup>th</sup> No New Readings!

### Assessments:

Discussion section: attendance 5%, participation 5%

Midterm 1: 20% **In class April 22nd**

Midterm 2: 30% **Due May 17<sup>th</sup> at 5PM**

Take-home Final: 40% **Due June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59PM**

### Percentage to Letter Grade Conversion Chart

Letter Grade	From	To
A+	97	100
A	93	96.99999

A-	90	92.99999
B+	87	89.99999
B	83	86.99999
B-	80	82.99999
C+	77	79.99999
C	73	76.99999
C-	70	72.99999
D	55	69.99999
F	0	54.99999

### **Participation Grade:**

Students are expected to attend all discussion sections and regularly participate. Students are permitted one excused absence no questions asked. Students may request an excused absence with appropriate justification (family emergency, illness, etc.) Half the participation grade is from section attendance, the other half is based on active participation. For full marks for active participation students must make substantial contributions to the weekly discussion section 5 times over the course of the quarter. Students can fulfil the participation requirement by posting a thoughtful comment to the section discussion board at least 24 hours prior to the section meeting time.

### **Grade Disputes:**

If you wish to appeal your grade first raise the matter with your TA. Your appeal should include some justification for why you think your grade was incorrect – a good way to do this is to respond to comments made by your TA on your exam. If you are unable to reach a satisfactory resolution with your TA you can request a regrade from the instructor. Note that the regrade may result in a lower grade.

### **General Policies:**

- Readings are subject to minor adjustments.
- If you require any form of accommodation on the grounds of disability please make sure you have registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities and have followed their guidelines for alerting instructors to your particular needs. The university's policy on the accommodation of disability can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/3> 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.  
858.534.4382 (phone) | [osd@ucsd.edu](mailto:osd@ucsd.edu) (email) | <http://disabilities.ucsd.edu> (website)

- If you require any accommodation on religious grounds, please alert me in writing as soon as possible. The university's policy on religious accommodation can be found here: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/operating-procedures/educational-policies/courses/epc-policies-on-courses/policy-exams-including-midterms-final-exams-and-religious-accommodations-for-exams/>
- All instances of academic offences including plagiarism, cheating on exams, and multiple submission of work, will be handled in accordance with official UCSD policy, which can be found here: <http://senate.ucsd.edu/Operating-Procedures/Senate-Manual/Appendices/2>. Please read the policy and ensure that you understand it.

**Integrity Statement:**

"Academic Integrity is expected of everyone at UC San Diego. This means that you must be honest, fair, responsible, respectful, and trustworthy in all of your actions. Lying, cheating or any other forms of dishonesty will not be tolerated because they undermine learning and the University's ability to certify students' knowledge and abilities. Thus, any attempt to get, or help another get, a grade by cheating, lying or dishonesty will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office and will result sanctions. Sanctions can include an F in this class and suspension or dismissal from the University. So, think carefully before you act by asking yourself: a) is what I'm about to do or submit for credit an honest, fair, respectful, responsible & trustworthy representation of my knowledge and abilities at this time and, b) would my instructor approve of my action? You are ultimately the only person responsible for your behavior. So, if you are unsure, don't ask a friend—ask your instructor, instructional assistant, or the Academic Integrity Office. You can learn more about academic integrity at [academicintegrity.ucsd.edu](http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu)" (Source: Academic Integrity Office, 2018)