

Phil 2: Individual Morality and Social Justice
Summer 2018 (first six-week session)

Instructor: Rachel Rudolph

Course Description

In this course, we will follow the development of philosophical thought about morality and social justice in the Western tradition, through the works of philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Hobbes, Kant, and Mill. We will discuss questions such as: What makes an action right or wrong? Does morality depend on one's culture or religion? Should we always do what has the best consequences, or are there some kinds of actions that we ought never to perform, no matter the consequences? What is the best kind of life a human being can live? Do the answers to any of these questions change depending on whether we begin from a male or a female perspective? In addition to learning about prominent views from the history of philosophy, we will also draw connections to some important contemporary issues, such as abortion, race relations, and free speech. No prior experience in philosophy is required.

Meeting Information

Mon–Thurs 12–2 PM 103 Moffitt
Friday 12–2 PM 215 Dwinelle

Contact Information

Email: rachelrudolph@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Monday 3–4:30, 148 Moses Hall

- Extra office hours will be added as needed (especially for essay and exam weeks)
- Appointments outside office hours can be set up over email

Course Material

Readings will be posted on the bCourses site, under 'Files'.

Philosophy involves a lot of careful analysis of texts. You'll need to either use some electronic application that allows you to mark up pdf files, or print out the course readings. Printing at UC Berkeley is available on the third floor of Moffitt (M–F, 9AM–5PM). For details see: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/using-the-libraries/print-scan>

Evaluation

	Due Date	Weight
Short expository essay	Saturday, May 26	15%
First critical essay	Friday, June 8	20%
Second critical essay	Friday, June 22	20%
Final exam	Friday, June 29	30%
Participation & in-class activities		15%

Assignments are to be submitted through bCourses **by 5 PM** on the due date.

The **final exam** will take place during the regular class period on Friday, June 29, beginning at 12:10 PM. Students arriving more than 30 minutes late will not be allowed to take the exam.

Late policy: Grades on essays will be lowered by a third of a letter grade per day late (e.g. from B to B-). Failure to complete any assignment will result in an F for the course: *all assignments must be completed*. Assignments will not be accepted more than a week late.

Participation means not only attending class, but actively engaging — by asking questions, answering questions, raising objections, responding to other students' comments, etc. Note that there is such a thing as negative participation, like disruptive or disrespectful behavior, and this can affect your grade too. In this course, we will likely discuss topics that can be charged and sensitive. I hope you'll all do your part to make sure that the discussion remains civil and respectful. This isn't to say that we can't have disagreements about moral questions! It's just to say that we should all be conscious of how we express our disagreements, so that the environment remains welcoming for everyone.

Accommodations

We're committed to making this course accessible to everyone. If you have been given special accommodations through the Office for Students with Disabilities, we will make all the necessary arrangements. Don't hesitate to get in touch with your instructor if you have any questions or concerns.

Academic Honesty

You are encouraged discuss the class material with others. However, you must write your essays on your own. If you're unsure whether something counts as academic dishonesty, you should ask me about it before the relevant assignment is due. It is ultimately your responsibility to make sure that your work accords with the University's standards for academic honesty, and anyone found to be cheating or misrepresenting their work will be reported to the Center for Student Conduct and may fail the course. For further information on academic misconduct and how to avoid it, see: <http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct/integrity/definition>.

After the first essay is assigned, we will discuss the details about how to make use of, and cite, your sources.

Policy on Sexual Violence and Harrassment

Sexual violence and sexual harassment have no place in a learning environment. Therefore, in alignment with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the University of California (Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence Policy) to prohibit sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. The UC Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy requires that the University immediately implement interim remedies and permanent support measures, when necessary, for victims/survivors. If you or someone you know experiences sexual violence or harassment, there are options, rights, and resources, including assistance with academics, reporting, and medical care. Visit survivorsupport.berkeley.edu or call the 24/7 Care Line at 510-643-2005. The PATH to Care Center is also a very good source of confidential support if you are survivor or victim of sexual harassment or violence. You can set up an appointment with the advocate by calling 510-642-1988.

Course Schedule

Note: This schedule will be updated as the course progresses. The plan for each week will be finalized by Friday of the week before.

Week 1: Introduction; Ancient Ethics

Mon	Intro; Cultural Relativism	No assigned reading; we will discuss Herodotus, “Morality as Custom”, Plato’s <i>Apology</i> , and Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”
Tues & Wed	The Socratic method; Morality and religion	Plato’s <i>Euthyphro</i>
Thurs	Aristotle on the human good	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I (focus especially on chs. 1, 2, (beginning of) 4, 7, 13)
Fri	Aristotle on the virtues	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II

Week 2: Morality and the Social Contract

Mon	No class [Memorial Day]	
Tues	Hobbes’s psychology; The “state of nature”	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , VI (esp. 38–41), XI (85–86), XIII
Wed	The social contract; Prisoner’s dilemma	<i>Leviathan</i> , XIV (esp. 116–121, 124–125), XV (start–134, 144–end), XVII
Thurs	Prisoner’s dilemma and climate change	Gardiner, “A Perfect Moral Storm” (intro, sections I–II)
Fri	Against Hobbes’s psychology	Singer, “The Biological Basis of Ethics” (esp. start–29, 37–49)

Week 3: Morality and Sentiment

Mon	Hume's psychology: Reason and passion	Hume, <i>Treatise of Human Nature</i> 1.1.1, pp. 1–2; 2.3.3, pp. 413–418
Tues	Hume on moral judgment	<i>Treatise</i> 3.1.1–2, pp. 455–476
Wed	More on morality and sentiment for Hume	Hume, “Of benevolence”, “Of self-love”
Thurs	Benefits and limits of moral sentiment	Roeser, “Climate Change: A Role for Emotions” (sect. 1–4, 6); Bennett, “The Conscience of Huckleberry Finn”
Fri	No class [First critical essay due]	

Week 4: Morality and Reason

Mon	Review day	
Tues	Intro to Kant's moral philosophy; The good will, duty, and reason	Kant, <i>Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , section 1, pp. 9–22
Wed	The categorical imperative: formula of universal law	Kant, <i>Foundations</i> , section 2, pp. 22–41
Thurs	The categorical imperative: formula of humanity [and of the kingdom of ends]	Kant, <i>Foundations</i> , rest of section 2, esp. pp. 42–47; O'Neill, “A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics,” pp. 45–48
Fri	Abortion, rights, and autonomy	Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion”

Week 5: Utilitarianism

Mon	Foundations of utilitarianism	Bentham, <i>Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation</i> , chs. I, IV
Tues	Mill's account of utilitarianism	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , ch. 2 (can skip sections “Utilitarianism as ‘godless’ ” and “Expediency”)
Wed	Contemporary utilitarianism / Paper-writing workshop	Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”
Thurs	Utilitarianism, respect, and integrity	O'Neill, “A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics,” pp. 48–50; LeGuin, “The Ones who Walk away from Omelas”; Williams, “A Critique of Utilitarianism”
Fri	No class [Second critical essay due]	

Week 6: Various Topics

Mon	Revival of virtue ethics and feminist care ethics	Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy”; Rachels, <i>Elements of Moral Philosophy</i> , selection about Kohlberg and Gilligan; Jagger, “Caring as a Feminist Practice of Moral Reason”
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Tues	Free speech debate	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , selections from chs. 1–2; Barrett, “When is speech violence?”
Wed	Review session	
Thurs	No class / Extra office hours in 148 Moses	
Fri	Final exam, 12–2 PM, 215 Dwinelle	