

Ethics

Philosophy 122

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This course deals with a variety of fascinating and controversial moral issues. Our objective will be to investigate the best arguments on issues such as affirmative action, sex and love, torture, capital punishment, welfare, and legalizing drugs.

We will also look at several theoretical issues in ethics—for example, the debates over egoism and altruism, relativism and universalism, rights, virtue, justice, capitalism, and socialism. Understanding these theoretical issues is crucial to evaluating arguments on issues such as affirmative action and capital punishment.

Course Readings

- Stephen Satris, editor. *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Moral Issues*, Eleventh Edition (2007).
- Stephen Hicks, editor. *Ethics* booklet.

Grading

▪ 2-page “pro” essay on affirmative action	10
▪ 2-page “con” essay on affirmative action	10
▪ First test	20
▪ Second test	20
▪ Participation	10
▪ Final Exam	<u>30</u>
	Total
	100

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"The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he would never be found out." (Thomas Macaulay)

Schedule and Readings

[E] = This selection is in the *Ethics anthology* in the binder. Otherwise, page numbers refer to Stephen Satris's *Clashing Views on Moral Issues*.

<i>Week</i>	Lecture Topics	Readings
1 Aug 20-22	Introduction Affirmative Action	<i>Regents of the Univ. of California v. Bakke</i> [E] Quotations on Racism [E]
2 Aug 25-29	Affirmative Action	Albert Mosley 223 Louis Pojman 235
3 Sep 3-5	No class September 1 Egoism, Altruism, or Selfishness? Pro and con essays on affirmative action due September 5	Ethical Principles Chart Ayn Rand 49 Louis Pojman 57 Mother Teresa, from <i>No Greater Love</i> [E]
4 Sep 8-12	Universalism or Relativism in Ethics?	Quotations for Universalism or Relativism [E] Gilbert Harman 4 Louis Pojman 13
5 Sep 15-19	Naturalism or Religion in Ethics?	C. Stephen Layman 26 John Arthur 35
6 Sept 22-26	First Test Video: ABC News Special, <i>The Blame Game</i>	
7 Sep 29-Oct 3	Ethics and Government: Libertarianism or Socialism?	Thomas Jefferson, <i>The Declaration of Independence</i> [E] The U.S. Bill of Rights [E] Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> [E]
8 Oct 6-10	Ethics and Government: What should be voluntary and what should be compulsory?	Robert Nozick, <i>The Tale of the Slave</i> [E] Alexis de Tocqueville on voluntary associations

		[E]
9 Oct 13-15	Sex, Love, and Commitment Fall Break: No class Friday, October 17	<i>Love and Sex: Three Ideals</i> table Vincent Punzo 88 Alan Goldman 94
10 Oct 20-24	Sex, Love, and Commitment, continued	Jonathan Rauch 104 Jeff Jordan 112
11 Oct 27-31	Wealth and Poverty	Table: Population, Resources, and Poverty [E] Peter Singer, from <i>Practical Ethics</i> [E] Garrett Hardin, <i>Lifeboat Ethics: The Case against Helping the Poor</i> [E]
12 Nov 3-7	Wealth and Poverty, continued Guest Speaker (Nov. 5): Dr. Emily Chamlee-Wright on Redeveloping New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina Second Test	Charles Murray from <i>Losing Ground</i> [E]
13 Nov 10-14	Legalizing Drugs?	David Boaz 177 US Drug Enforcement Agency 184 Common Sense for Drug Policy, “Annual Causes of Death in the US” [E]
14 Nov 17-21	Capital Punishment?	Michael Welch 297 Ernest van den Haag 292 William Brennan, <i>Furman v. Georgia</i> [E] Potter Stewart, <i>Gregg v. Georgia</i> [E]
15 Nov 24	Torture? Thanksgiving Break: No classes November 26 and 28	Mirko Bagaric and Julie Clark 307 Desmond Manderson 316
16 Dec 1-5	Conclusions and overflow	
17 Dec 8	1-3 p.m.: Final Examination	