

# Introduction to Ethical Theory

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Lecture/Discussion: Monday and Wednesday 9-12:30

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:30-1:30

## Class Goals

Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical theories discussed in class—

1. ...by writing three mini essays that include textual citation and applies the theory to (a) situation(s) in your own life.
2. ...by participating in an ethical role-playing game
3. ...by crafting a meaningful project to be turned in/presented on the last day

**\*\*Readings and Assignments are Subject to Change\*\***

## **WEEK ONE**

### Monday 7/29

- Define and describe meta-ethics, normative ethics, and applied ethics
- Contrast description vs prescription
- “Why Do We Need Ethics?” Activity

### **Religious Ethics and the problem of Divine Command Theory**

1. Plato, *Euthyphro*
  - Ten Commandments
  - Five Precepts of Buddhism
  - Five Virtues of Confucius
  - Yamas / Niyamas

### Wednesday 7/31

#### **Utilitarianism**

1. Peter Singer, *Famine, Affluence, and Morality*

## **WEEK TWO**

### Monday 8/5

- *Mini Paper #1 due*

#### **Deontology**

1. Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

## Wednesday 8/7

1. Ayn Rand, "Who is the final Authority in Ethics?"

## **WEEK THREE**

### Monday 8/12

- *Mini Paper #2 due*

#### **Virtue Ethics**

1. Aristotle, *Nicomachaen Ethics*
2. Philippa Foot, *Natural Goodness*

### Wednesday 8/14

- Ethical Projects Workshop
- *Project proposal due*

1. Feminist Care Ethics
2. Confucian Filial Piety

## **WEEK FOUR**

### Monday 8/17

- *Mini Paper #3 due*
- Letter Activity

1. R.M. Rilke, *Letters to a Young Poet*
2. Rilke, "Archaic Torso of Apollo"
3. Seneca, "Moral Letters to Lucilius"

### Wednesday 8/21

- Ethics Game
  - Be able to analyze situations through the lens of different ethical theories

## **WEEK FIVE**

### Monday 8/26

#### **Existential Ethics**

1. Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*
2. Albert Camus, *The Myth of Sisyphus*

### Monday 8/28

- *Ethics Project Due*
- Project Sharing Activity

## Grade Breakdown

Mini-Essays: 30% (10% each)

Attendance and Participation: 20% (2% each class)

Draft Proposal: 10%

Your part in Role Playing Game/Skit: 10%

Final Project: 30%

## Session 2

Drop: Monday, August 5th

Request for "W": Friday, August 16th

Neither Summer Session nor instructors drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves. Dropping results in full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar:

<https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html>

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email [summer@ucsc.edu](mailto:summer@ucsc.edu).

### **DRC Accommodations:**

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, please contact the DRC office, located in Hahn 125 or at 831-459-2089 or [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu).

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree.

All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university.

and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the Academic Integrity page at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

#### **Title IX:**

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information about the Title IX Office , the online reporting link , applicable campus resources , reporting responsibilities, the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at [titleix.ucsc.edu](http://titleix.ucsc.edu) .

The Title IX/Sexual Harassment Office is located at 105 Kerr Hall. In addition to the online reporting option , you can contact the Title IX Office by calling 831-459-2462.