

Current Moral and Social Issues Section 2 syllabus

PHL 105, M/Th Scott Hall 114, 11.30 to 12.50

Janelle Derstine, Ph.D. (Rutgers)

E-mail: janellederstine@gmail.com -- Put your **LAST NAME** and **CMSI 2** in subject line!

Office hours: by appointment, via phone, email, or on campus

Texts: Russ Shaffer Landau — *Fundamentals of Ethics* (FE)

Web and other resources on Sakai

We will go over a selection of applied ethical issues pertaining to JUSTICE and the so-called Prison Industrial Complex. Some of the material will be based on what students are interested in discussing. Please alert me to any applied topics related to the course outline (Sakai/Resources) that you would be interested in learning about and discussing.

Undergraduate Learning Outcomes:

As a result of fully participating in this class, students will be able to:

- a) Understand the key theories and concepts involved in contemporary and classical Ethical Theory.
- b) Critically examine how these theories pertain to current debates in contemporary applied ethics, regarding the notion of Justice and the so-called Prison Industrial Complex in particular.
- c) Summarize, write and verbalize key theories and concepts studied.

Expectations for All Students:

All participants in the course are expected to:

- 1) Commit to attending each class session;
- 2) Check email or Sakai **DAILY** for any announcements or updates;
- 3) Be prepared to discuss assigned readings and engage positively in class activities;
- 4) Be willing to examine and share your own assumptions and experiences;

- 5) Be respectful of different perspectives offered by classmates and professor
- 6) Complete assignments (you will be asked to drop if you miss too many)
- 7) Submit a CTAAR (teaching evaluation) at the end of the course

Assessment:

10%: Attendance, Participation in discussion (including active listening), Pro-activeness

40% Written HW (Study questions—one per lesson, approx. 12 total)

20% Group Project

30%: Final Paper

Other Requirements

- **Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 2 classes will affect your final grade, regardless of the situation.** If you miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.
- **No texting, browsing, leaving class for prolonged periods, or disruptive whispering to surrounding friends/ classmates will be tolerated.** It is discourteous to both your fellow students and me. If you must use your phone or text, please wait until break time or step outside class.
- **Current Academic Integrity Policy:**
<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>
Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity

Final Paper: Submitted via Sakai will be checked by Turn-it-in due TBA.

Final Exam/Paper Date and Time <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>

DETAILED SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND HW STARTS NEXT PAGE

Date	Topic	You should have read/done
J 25	Introduction	<p>Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. View Michael Sandel Video Episode 1 at http://www.justiceharvard.org/ click “watch videos” on upper left side 2. Contribute two posts (PAQ, PAR) to the Group discussion of Sandel Video on Sakai Forums (See instructions first in Resources folder) by Jan 24 11.59 pm. 3. Read Introduction chapter of FE and submit answers to study questions (located at the end of the chapter) on Sakai Assignments tab by time required (in this case, by 24th at 11.59 pm) LATE SQs are AUTOMATICALLY DEDUCTED 1 point for each hour late. NONE are accepted after class time. 4. Read ahead Ch 19 FE <p>Supplemental (not required) Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self Quiz (multiple choice) at Fundamental Ethics website http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/ • Lecture /PPT and Notes sometimes available on Sakai/Resources
J 28	Meta-Ethics	<p>Required Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Normative Ethical Theories http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/framework.html 2. Read Ch 19 and 20 of FE 3. Answer selected (see assignment instructions) study questions at the end of chapter 19 and 20 and submit on Sakai Assignments by Jan 27th 5pm. <p>Supplemental (not required) Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Relativism http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/ethicalrelativism.html • Lecture /PPT and Notes sometimes available on Sakai/Resources • CulturalRelativism: http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/ethicalrelativism.html

F 1	Normative Ethics I	<p>Required Reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch 5 of FE, answer study questions and upload onto Sakai Assignments tab by 5pm Jan 31. 2. Click on at least one link under Sakai/BLOGS tab and read the corresponding article. Then post twice on <i>In the News at Sakai/Forums/In the News</i> by Jan 31st 5pm (see Forum instructions on Sakai). <p>Supplemental (not required) Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy Bites episode on Morality and God • Peter Singer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBIPsqPtS5g • Sam Harris: Sam Harris Destroys Morality and God • William Lane Craig: Is the Foundation of Morality Natural or Supernatural? William Lane Craig vs Sam Harris
F 4	Consequentialism/ Utilitarianism	<p>Required:</p> <p>FE chapter 9 on <i>Consequentialism: Its Attractions</i></p> <p>Study Questions at end of Ch 9 uploaded onto Sakai by due date</p> <p>Supplemental Material:</p> <p>Utilitarianism: http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/calculating.html</p> <p>A helpful FAQ about Utilitarianism</p> <p>PPT slideshow on Sakai/Resources</p> <p>References at end of text</p> <p>Self Quiz on FE website:</p> <p>http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/</p>
F 8	Consequentialism cont'd	<p>Required:</p> <p>FE chapter 10 on <i>Difficulties for Consequentialism</i></p> <p>Study Questions at end of Ch 10 uploaded onto Sakai by due date</p> <p>Supplemental:</p> <p>PPT slideshow on Sakai/Resources</p> <p>References at end of text</p> <p>Self Quiz on FE website:</p> <p>http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/</p>
F 11	Deontological Theories:	<p>Required:</p> <p>FE chapter 11 on <i>Kantianism: Fairness and Justice</i></p>

	Kantianism, Part I	<p>Study Questions at end of Ch 11 uploaded onto Sakai by due date</p> <p>Supplemental: Kantian (Rights) theories: http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/rights.html PPT slideshow on Sakai/Resources References at end of text Self Quiz on FE website: http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/</p>
F 15	Kant Part II	<p>Required: FE chapter 12 on Autonomy and Respect in <i>Kantianism</i></p> <p>Study Questions at end of Ch 12 uploaded onto Sakai by due date</p> <p>Supplemental: PPT slideshow on Sakai/Resources References at end of text Self Quiz on FE website: http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/</p>
F 18	Aristotle's Virtue Ethics	<p>Required: FE chapter 17 on <i>Virtue Ethics</i></p> <p>Study Questions at end of Ch 17 uploaded onto Sakai by due date</p> <p>Supplemental: Virtue Ethics: http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/ethicsandvirtue.html PPT slideshow on Sakai/Resources References at end of text Self Quiz on FE website: http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/</p>
F 22	Social Contract Theory and Distributive Justice	<p>Required: FE chapter 13 on <i>The Social Contract Tradition</i></p> <p>Study Questions at end of Ch 13 uploaded onto Sakai by due date</p> <p>Supplemental: PPT slideshow on Sakai/Resources References at end of text Self Quiz on FE website: http://global.oup.com/us/companion.websites/9780199997237/student/</p>

F 25	Distributive Justice	Required: Read Rawls on Distributive Justice – Material Posted under <i>Resources/Rawls Reading</i> Study Questions on Rawls (posted in Assignment description) uploaded onto Sakai by due date Supplemental Resources 1. Justice as Fairness: http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/decision/justice.html 2. Justice as Fairness 2: http://ethicsops.com/JusticeTest.aspx
F 29	Punishment	Required: Read TBA
M 3	The US Correctional system: Who falls through the cracks?	Guest Speaker Jim Petske (?)
M 7		
M 10		
	Spring Break	
M 21		
M 24		
M 28		
M 31		
A 4		
A 7		
A 11		
A		

14		
A 18		
A 21		
A 25		
A 28		
M 2		

Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/
www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 /
www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.