

PHIL 534 A01
CRN#12524

September – December 2017
TWF: 11:30am – 12:20am

Contemporary Consequentialism

Instructor: Scott Woodcock
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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:30pm – 4:30pm

Course Description:

Grading System: Please consult p. 44 of the *Uvic Graduate Calendar*. If you receive a grade that you consider to be unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with me in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still consider the grade you received to be unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 9), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Counseling Services: Many, if not most, students experience some difficulties with their mental health during their years as undergraduate students. Make sure you are familiar with *Uvic Counseling Services*, which is an excellent resource you have at your disposal on campus. It is hard to shake the stigma associated with problems like depression and anxiety, but if at any point you can benefit from help with mental health issues, please contact *Counseling Services*. They genuinely want to help, and why not take advantage of this free resource?

Important Dates: Please consult the Uvic calendar's *Academic Year Important Dates* for information about last possible dates to withdraw from courses without penalty, etc.

Uvic Territory Acknowledgment: we ought to acknowledge and respect the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNE peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Note: *Dates and particular readings are subject to change!* Class attendance is essential to stay informed about scheduling changes. Material ought to be read *before* the class in which it is discussed.

Page numbers refer to *Consequentialism* by Julia Driver. Readings from other authors are available via *CourseSpaces*. If you encounter any difficulty accessing the readings, please let me know *before* it impedes your ability to keep up with the schedule.

Dates Topics & Readings

<u>Week 1</u>	<u>Introduction to Utilitarianism</u>
Sep. 6	First Meeting
Sep. 8	pp. 5 – 16 + Gerald J. Postema: “Bentham’s Utilitarianism”

<u>Week 2</u>	Background History
Sep. 12	pp. 16 – 25 + J.S. Mill: <i>Utilitarianism</i> , ch. 2 & 4 + Elizabeth S. Anderson, “John Stuart Mill and Experiments in Living”
Sep. 13	Roger Crisp: “Sidgwick and Utilitarianism in the Late Nineteenth Century”
Sep. 15	G.E. Moore: <i>Principia Ethica</i> , ch. 3, s. 49 – 57 + Peter Schaber: “Value Pluralism: Some Problems”
<u>Week 3</u>	Hedonism Reconsidered
Sep. 19	pp. 26 – 38 + David Sobel: “Varieties of Hedonism”
Sep. 20	Sharon Hewitt: “What Do Our Intuitions about the Experience Machine Really Tell us about Hedonism?”
Sep. 22	Eden Lin: “How to Use the Experience Machine”
<u>Week 4</u>	Maximization and Satisficing
Sep. 26	pp. 38 – 52 + Michael Slote: “Satisficing Consequentialism”
Sep. 27	Alastair Norcross: “The Scalar Approach to Utilitarianism”
Sep. 29	Gerald Lang: “Should Utilitarianism Be Scalar?”
<u>Week 5</u>	Negative Responsibility
Oct. 3	pp. 52 – 66 + Bernard Williams: “A Critique of Utilitarianism”, s. 3 – 5
Oct. 4	Daniel D. Moseley: “Revisiting Williams on Integrity”
Oct. 6	Elizabeth Ashford: “Utilitarianism, Integrity and Partiality”
<u>Week 6</u>	Aggregation
Oct. 10	pp. 67 – 85 + Derek Parfit, <i>Reasons and Persons</i> , ch. 17
Oct. 11	Gustaf Arrhenius, Jesper Ryberg & Torbjörn Tännsjö: “The Repugnant Conclusion (SEP entry)”
Oct. 13	Roger Crisp: “Equality, Priority, and Compassion”
<u>Week 7</u>	Indirect Consequentialism

Oct. 17 pp. 86 – 95 + Brad Hooker: “Rule-Consequentialism”

Oct. 18 Holly M. Smith: “Measuring the Consequences of Rules”

Oct. 20

<u>Week 12</u>	Consequentialism and Moral Psychology
Nov. 21	Peter Singer: "Ethics and Intuitions"
Nov. 22	F.M. Kamm: "Neuroscience and Moral Reasoning: A Note on Recent Research"
Nov. 24	Joshua D. Greene: "Beyond Point-and-Shoot Morality: Why Cognitive (Neuro)Science Matters for Ethics"