Unit Information Sheet 2012

Intro to Philosophy A: Life, Death, & Morality (ATS1371)

This is an introduction to moral philosophy. The focus is the ethics of killing. We examine questions such as: When, if ever, is killing justified? Many of us think that killing is permissible in emergency rescue situations, or in self-defence. Is it possible to explain this in a way that is consistent with our more typical attitudes to killing? What about killing non-human animals for food? Like all philosophy classes, this will also develop critical and analytic thinking skills.

Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Tasks</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AT1 (Short answer, 600 words)</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Tues. February 21st</td>
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<tr>
<td>AT2 (Short answer, 600 words)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Tues. March 13th</td>
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<tr>
<td>AT3 (Short answer, 600 words)</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Tues. April 17th</td>
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<td>Essay (1250 words)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Tues. May 8th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam (2 hours)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>May 28th–Jun 1st</td>
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Required texts:
1. Unit Study Guide/Reader - collection of readings (see below) and summaries of topics; available for purchase in Bookshop.

Required Readings (in Reader):

**Topic 1: What's Wrong with Killing?**
- Singer, Ch. 4, “What’s Wrong with Killing?” only pp. 71-93.

**Topic 2: Defensive Killing**


**Topic 3: Taking the Lives of Other Animals**

Singer, Ch. 2, “Equality and Its Implications” pp. 16-47.
Singer, Ch. 4 “What's Wrong with Killing” only pp. 85–90
Singer, Ch. 5, “Taking Life: Animals” only pp. 100–122, then pp. 94-100, then pp. 104-19.

**Topic 4: Abortion and Infanticide**

Singer, Ch. 5, Section Heading "Killing other Animals" only p. 104.
Singer, Ch .6, “Taking Life: The Embryo and Fetus” only pp. 123–138.
Singer, Ch .6, "Taking Life: The Embryo and Fetus" only pp. 138–141.

**Topic 5: Virtue, Value, & Relativism**

Singer, Ch. 3, “Equality for Animals?” only pp. 61-64.