

**Current Moral Issues:** 730:105

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Class communication: 105-Fall14@rams.rutgers.edu

Office hours: W 2.30-3.30 in the Philosophy Department – room 537.

**Web Page:**

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B5cuU4jm6e8kX0NQVjVkJNIBfVm8&usp=sharing>

**This course is designed to introduce students to a variety of topics and techniques in Moral Philosophy.**

**Organization:** Study questions and readings will be assigned as we proceed. Students will be expected to discuss the questions and explicate the text in class.

**Requirements:** There will be a mid-term and a final. Your grade will be based on the mid-term (30%) and the final (70%) or the final alone (100%), whichever is better. Please note: MAKE UP EXAMINATIONS ARE NOT OFFERED IN THIS COURSE.

**Miscellaneous:** It will not be possible to pass this course without attending class. You can eat, sleep, daydream or do anything else you like in class as long as it does not distract other students or me. The readings for this course are quite limited; however, philosophy is not easy to read. All assignments should be studied at least twice before the discussion meeting. In order to avoid distraction, no electronic equipment may be used in class.

**Please familiarize yourself with college rules on plagiarism and cheating.**

**Topics:**

1. Moral agents (none)
2. Formal theories (Bunzl)
3. Animals (Singer)
4. Trees (Stone)
5. Persons (Thompson)
6. Future persons (Bunzl)
7. Action (Foot)
8. Science (Jones)
9. Climate Change (Bunzl)
10. Decision theory (Bunzl)
11. Catastrophes (Bunzl)
12. Geoengineering (Bunzl)

**Text:** All readings are available on the website for the class but you should print them up to bring to class.

**Readings:**

Bunzl, Uncertainty and the Philosophy of Climate Change, selections.

And papers by:

Foot, "The Problem of Abortion and the Doctrine of the Double Effect".

Jones, "Kitzmiller vs. Dover School Board".

Singer, Animal Liberation, Chapter 1.

Stone, Do Trees Have Standing?, Chapter 1.  
Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion".