

Philosophy 459, Advanced Seminar in Ethics, Fall 2014

Professors: Derek Parfit and Larry Temkin

Office: 106 Somerset St., 5th Fl., CAC, Temkin Rm. 523, Parfit, TBD

Class Meets: Tues. 1:10-4:10 p.m., Scott Hall, Rm. 101, CAC

Office Hour: Tues. 4:10-5:30 and by appt. (subject to change)

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Partial and Tentative Syllabus For Class!

Note: *the information on this syllabus is subject to change.* Variations in assignments, grading practices, papers, etc. will be announced in class. It is *your* responsibility to pay attention during class to announced changes, or to learn of any announced changes on days where you miss part or all of a class. *No excuses* will be accepted for a failure to understand your responsibilities in this class.

Required Texts:

On What Matters Vol. 1—Parfit

Rethinking the Good: Moral Ideals and the Nature of Practical Reasoning—Temkin

Other Readings Available on Class Website

The readings in this course are important. Unfortunately, many are also long and difficult. Make sure that you have a copy of each reading well before that reading is due. Also, we *strongly* urge that you do not leave your reading till class day (or even the night before class), and that you *try* to read selections (at least) twice. We realize this may be difficult, but if you can manage it, it is likely to be well worth your while to do so.

Required Work:

There will be one (16-20 page) or two (8-10 page) papers (to be discussed in class). Your grade will depend *mainly* on your performance on your paper(s). However, you are expected to prepare for, and constructively participate during, class discussions. In addition, there will be short homework assignments which, if not turned in, will *seriously* affect your grade. The details of this, and our grading policies, will be explained during class and, as noted above, it is *your* responsibility to make sure you fully understand them. If your papers are borderline your attendance, homework performance, classroom or office hour discussions, etc. will break the tie. In some exceptional cases, such factors may raise or lower your grade by half a grade or so. Also, because of the difficulty and importance of the material, students are expected to attend class *regularly*, and to keep up with *all* the readings. If you miss class it is *your* responsibility to get notes, as well as to be sure to find out—*prior to the next class*—about any important announcements, changed assignments, handouts, etc. Poor attendance (missing more than two classes) will adversely affect your grade, and abysmal attendance (missing more than 5 classes) is automatic grounds for failure.

All work in this course must be your own, and all sources—including internet sources—scrupulously cited. *Any* form of cheating or plagiarism will result in automatic failure for the CLASS, NOT just the assignment, and will be reported to the appropriate university committee which may result in suspension or expulsion from the university.

If you have questions about *any* of this, ASK TEMKIN BEFORE it is too late!!! As noted above, *no excuses* will be accepted for a failure to understand your responsibilities in this class.

We expect this to be a TERRIFIC class. It should be one of the most interesting and important and classes that you ever take. Have fun, and learn lots. Finally, please note that if you have a disability requiring special consideration, be sure to discuss this with Temkin during the first weeks of class. L.T.

Readings, etc. (like everything else, subject to change):

Sept.	2	--	OWM, Chapters 1-4 (Sections 1-15)
	9	--	TBD
	16	--	TBD
	23	--	TBD
	30	--	TBD
Oct.	7	--	TBD
	14	--	TBD
	21	--	No Class, as Parfit and Temkin will be in Sweden celebrating Parfit's Rolf-Schock Prize!!! Rest, relax, and put the free time to good use!
	28	--	RTG, Preface, Chapters 1 and 2.
Nov.	4	--	RTG, Chapters 3 and 5.
	11	--	RTG, Chapters 6 and 7.
	18	--	RTG, Sections 8.1-8.3, 9.2, and Chapter 11.
	25	--	No Class—University Thursday! Happy Thanksgiving!!!
Dec.	2	--	RTG, Chapter 12.
	9	--	RTG, Chapters 13 and 14.