

Philosophy 323

Moral Issues in Parenting

Fall 2009

Dr. Graybosch

Office Hours: To Be Announced each month. I'll probably take my furlough time as office hours.

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Texts:

Students should purchase our packet of readings at the bookstore. All readings are in that packet except for a few things I have written up for you on ethical theories. Those will be posted on webct.

Your Grade:

There will be ten five point online quizzes spaced through the semester. These will be made available to you online after Wednesday's class and will become unavailable the following Saturday at 11 PM. I will schedule the first of these for the Wednesday of week 2. Material for each of these quizzes is drawn from the readings covered within each time period as well as from class lectures.

There will be two in class essay exams. The first will occur on the Wednesday of Week 7 and the second will occur at the time scheduled for our final exam. It looks like that is December 14 at 6 PM.

Each essay exams is worth 25% of your grade and will be graded as a letter.

I will post the essay questions at least one week ahead of time. You, not me, will select one 11111111111111111111 from the list to write on in class. You may bring a 3 by 5 note card to each of the two essay exams. You may write on only one side of the card and may not bring a magnifying glass to class.

It is impossible to arrange make-ups for large numbers of students during the semester. Essay exam one make-ups will only be available during the final exam week. Students will not be allowed make-ups or substitutions for the online quizzes. You have a 3 day window in which you can take each of those.

There is no extra credit. I prefer you do the assigned work for the class.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: The objective quizzes produce a number. I take your total (out of 50) and turn it into a letter. For example, 45/50 is an A. I then average that letter with the average of the 2 letter grades for the 2 essay exams. In other words, your final grade (subject to adjustment for absences) is your quiz numbers added, translated into a letter, and averaged with the average of the two essay letters. I do not translate the essays into numbers.

Attendance

Three absences are allowed before entering the penalty box. The three includes absences supposedly approved by various university authorities, sports events, funerals, trips required by other classes, job interviews, and illness. In other words, there are no excused absences. I give you three to use as you see fit. I wish you luck in your other classes, success on your jobs, useful internships, enjoyable holidays, and sports championships. But I am in the philosophy business and I cannot do my job if you are not in class.

After three absences I will deduct one grade level (5%) from your final cumulative grade for each additional absence.

If there is some unforeseen event that prevents regular class attendance such as a serious illness contact me at the outset so that I can attempt to make arrangements for you to complete the class. If you contact me after an extended absence I will not make any special arrangements. And please understand that I cannot make such arrangements for more than a couple cases.

Readings

What Is a Family?

William Goode, "Defining the Family: a Matter of More or Less," *The Family*, second edition (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1982), pp. 8-12

Ruth Macklin, "Artificial Means of Reproduction and Our Understanding of the Family," *Hastings Center Report*, 21 1991, pp. 5-11.

One Ethical Issue: Surrogacy

Bonnie Steinbock, "Surrogate Motherhood as Prenatal Adoption," *Law, Medicine and Health Care*, 16 (1988): pp. 44-50.

Ethics and the Family

The first five theories are posted together as Ethical Theory Part1

Utilitarianism

Kantianism

Prima Facie Ethics

Social Contract Theory

Natural Law

Confucius and Mencius Posted

Back to the reader

Aristotle, "Friendship," *Nicomachean Ethics* Book VIII

Why Have Children

Plato, "The Speech of Diotima," *Symposium* 203C-212C

G. E. M. Anscombe, "Why Have a Child?" *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association* 63 (1990), pp. 48-53.

Lin Yutang, *The Importance of Living*. New York: John Day, 1937; pp. 190-201.

Abortion

Don Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral," *The Journal of Philosophy* 86 (1989) pp. 183-202.

Margaret Bolton, "Responsible Women and Abortion Decisions," in *Having Children: Philosophical and Legal Reflections*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979), pp. 40-51

Prenatal Rights

Thomas Murray, "Moral Obligations to the Not-Yet-Born Child," *The Worth of a Child*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), pp. 96-114.

Bonnie Steinbok and Ron McClamrock, "When is Birth Unfair to the Child?" *Hastings Center Report*, 24 no. 6 (1990), pp. 15-21.

Alan Donagan, "The Family," *The Theory of Morality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977), pp. 100-108.

Marriage

Elizabeth Joseph, "Polygamy is Good Feminism," *New York Times* 23 May 1991, p. A31.

Richard Mohr, "The Case for Gay Marriage," *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics, and Public Policy* 9 (1995), pp. 216-229.

Divorce

Bertrand Russell, *Marriage and Morals*, New York: W. W. Norton, 1929), pp. 221-239.

Laurence D. Houlgate, "Children and the Ethics of Divorce," *Morals, Marriage, and Parenthood*, (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1998), pp. 150-155.

Abuse

Matt Lait, "She's 13, He's 20; Is It Love or Is It Abuse?" *Los Angeles Times*. 1 September 1996.

Elaine Chiu, "Culture as Justification, Not Excuse," *American Criminal Law Review* 43 (2006), pp. 1-34.

Raising Children to be Altruistic

Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints," *The Journal of Philosophy*, 79 (1982), pp. 419-439.

R. Paul Churchill, "The Obligation of Parents to Raise Their Children as Altruists," *Morals, Marriage, and Parenthood*, (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1998), pp. 251-255.

Chris Cuomo and Lee Ferran, "Having One Child to Save Another," July 31, 2008.
<http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/story?id=5490111&page=1>

An Open Future?

Claudia Mills, "The Child's Right to an Open Future?" *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 34 (2003), 499-509.

Dena S. Davis, "Genetic Dilemmas and the Child's Right to an Open Future," *Hastings Center Report* 27 no. 2 (1997), pp. 7-15.

William Ruddick, "Parenthood: Three Concepts and a Principle," *Morals, Marriage, and Parenthood*. (Belmont, Ca: Wadsworth Publishing Co., 1998), pp. 242-251.

Family Duty

Jane English, "What Do Grown Children Owe Their Parents?" in *Having Children: Philosophical and Legal Reflections*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1979), pp. 351-356.

Joseph Kupfer, "Can Parents and Children Be Friends?" *American Philosophical Quarterly* 27 (1990), pp. 15-26.

Qingjie Wang, "The Confucian Filial Obligation and Care for Aged Parents," *Confucian Bioethics*. (Hingham, Mass: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999), pp. 235-256.