

1 Section Details

Location: HMNSS 1401
TA: Nichi Smith
Office: HMNSS 3007
Course Instructor: Tom Hanauer
Office: HMNSS 3214

Times: TR, 12:40-1:30
Email: nsmit015@ucr.edu
Office Hours: W 12:30-1:30
Email: thana003@ucr.edu
Office Hours: TBD

2 Section Description

Following the content of the course, as a section we will ask what evil is, how to identify it, how to avoid it, and most centrally whether evil is part of the ordinary fabric of our lives. The skills we'll focus on can be broadly divided into reading, writing, listening, and speaking, or into summary, evaluation, articulation, construction, and discussion. Note that this is the same set of skills as the course; in section you'll receive more immediate feedback. As such, it will be crucial that you come having already engaged with the material, i.e. did the readings and assignments, went to lectures, and thought about the material.

3 Section Expectations

You are expected to attend and participate in each section.

Participation Assignment: To earn credit for participation, you must participate and then document that participation. To do so, write a short summary of what was discussed (1-2 sentences) and then of your contribution (1-2 sentences). The summary is to demonstrate that you were paying attention to others, and the description of your contribution is to show how you contributed.

For additional participation credit, at the end of the term you may submit a description of your participation in each lecture. (Your participation in lecture will still be graded either way, since I'll be paying attention.) You may also post on the class discussion board.

If you do not understand what's going on, please ask for clarification. Often one of the most helpful moves in philosophy is slowing down to get clear on what exactly we're talking about. These questions should be brought up in sections, and I am also available via email and during office hours.

The material in course is often extremely sensitive. If a class topic is particularly distressing for you, then I will do my best to accommodate your needs. Additionally, a high level of respect for the material is expected. Remember that any of these topics may be difficult for your some of your classmates.

Respect for each other as well as academic freedom and honesty are expected. Your performance in the class will be evaluated on the quality of the arguments you make for your claims, not the claims themselves. (This does not imply that all claims can be well-justified.) Insulting or otherwise disrespecting other people, especially those in the class, will not be tolerated. To be clear: While

disagreeing with what someone says is encouraged (and will be asked of you!), personal insults will not be allowed, nor will flippant disrespect for the people we study. Please see the course syllabus for information on plagiarism and cheating.

From myself, you can expect prompt and open communication. I respond to emails within a business day. If my weekly office hour (W 12:30–1:30) doesn't work for you, feel free to ask for an appointment. If you do, please suggest a few times/days that work for you. Questions about concepts, how to read or understand some of the material, further clarification about the lecture or sections, guidance on doing the assignments, etc. are all always welcome.

Every student in the class has the same right to quality education. This holds true across ability, academic performance, personality, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, appearance, class, wealth, etc. If you feel this is not being upheld, I welcome (but don't expect) feedback.

4 Assignment Submissions

Participation: Please email your participation assignments to me at nsmit015@ucr.edu. Please try to confine them to one thread. (I.e. after sending the first one, send all the others as replies to the first one.) Please make the subject “[Your Name] Evil Participation”. Submit the text inline (not as an attachment).

Journals: Journals are due as set on the schedule on the course syllabus. You may turn them in by emailing me at nsmit015@ucr.edu. Submit the text inline. Alternatively, you may post your journals as a thread on the class discussion board. The assignment is the same either way, but the discussion board option will allow you to get feedback from and generate discussion with your classmates as well as myself. (If you choose this option, your grades will be emailed to you privately.)

Papers: Please email me your papers in PDF format.

I will do my best to respond to journals and participation within 24 hours and papers within 48 hours. If you have any questions about your grades, feel free to ask.

5 Schedule

All of the readings will be made available on iLearn. Please have done the readings before section. Below I list each of the section meetings with the readings to have done as well as the activity for the day.

- Section 1 (Jul 30): Read: Adams interview, Mackie.
Activity: Introduce the course, read Mackie
- Section 2 (Aug 1): Read: Card Ch1, Levi Ch2, Card Ch10
Activity: Read Card Ch1

- Section 3 (Aug 6): Watch: The Milgram Experiment, Read: Arendt, Jeske Ch2
Activity: Discuss the question What is evil?
- Section 4 (Aug 8): Read: Jeske Ch3–4
Activity: Paper proposal presentations
- Section 5 (Aug 13): Read: Jeske Ch6, Manne
Activity: Paper workshop (Outlining and Introductions)
- Section 6 (Aug 15): Watch: The Act of Killing
Activity: Paper workshop (Developing a body paragraph)
- Section 7 (Aug 20): Read: Singer, Norcross
Activity: Review Singer and Norcross and discuss whether we ought to change our behaviors in light of their arguments
- Section 8 (Aug 22): Read: Klein Intro and Ch5, Freiman
Activity: Review and discuss the question Are we evil?
- Section 9 (Aug 27): Read: Scheffler Ch1, Booker, Young
Activity: Paper workshop (Peer review)
- Section 10 (Aug 29): Read: Woody, Eco, Walker
Activity: Review course