

Phil 28 Ethics & Society II

Syllabus
Summer 2026

Andy Lamey
alamey@ucsd.edu

1. Overview

This class investigates subjects related to rightful authority and authoritarianism as they reappear throughout Spanish history. We will begin by examining philosophical arguments for and against the use of torture, informed by an examination of torture's use during the height of the Spanish Inquisition (1480-1530). We will then turn our attention to the dictatorship of Francisco Franco (1939-75), who came to power when fascism was rising across Europe. We will read two prominent critics of authoritarianism, British philosopher John Stuart Mill (1806-73) and Spanish philosopher Jose Ortega Y Gasset (1883-1955), paying particular attention to their shared emphasis on the relationship between authoritarianism and conformity. We will then analyze the morality of secession by examining the Basque and Catalan independence movements, both of which have sought to break free of the authority of the Spanish state. Finally, we will engage the longstanding debate about whether free movement within the European Union has come at the expense of admitting needy outsiders by examining Spain's longstanding status as a frontier between Europe and Africa, as symbolised by the Ceuta Border Fence between Spain and Morocco. The themes of both seminar classes will converge in our final class when we watch *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* with an eye to unpacking its commentary on individual freedom and political authority. Although our focus will be on Spain throughout, many of the topics we will investigate have bearing on American experience as well.

This class presupposes no background in philosophy and students who put in effort can do well.

2. Assessment

A 1,000-word site-visit report (25%)

An in-class essay (30%)

A second in-class essay (30%)

Class participation (15%)

Students will be assessed on their essays, site report and class participation.

3. Readings and Schedule

1. Week of June 29th-July 3rd

Monday: Charles Krauthammer. The Truth About Torture. *The Weekly Standard*, 5 December, 2005, 1–6.

Mon: Fritz Allhoff. Terrorism and Torture. *International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 17/1 (2003), 121-134.

Mon: Vittorio Bufacchi and Jean Maria Arrigo, Torture, Terrorism and the State: A Refutation of the Ticking-Bomb Argument. *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 23 (2006), 355–73.

Wednesday: Ron Hassner. The Cost of Torture: Evidence from the Spanish Inquisition. *Security Studies* 29/3 (2020), 457-492.

Wed: Alan Dershowitz. Want to Torture? Get a Warrant. San Francisco Gate. January 22, 2002.

Wed: Jeff McMahan. Torture, Morality, and Law. *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 37 (2005): 241-8.

2. Week of July 6th-10th

Monday: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*. Elizabeth Rapaport, ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1978 [1859]), 1-56 (first half).

The Truth About Franco: Spain's Forgotten Dictatorship: Episode One: The Rise to Power (dir. Isabel Andres Porti, 53 min. 2017)

Wed: Mill, *On Liberty*, 57-113 (second half).

3. Week of July 13th-17th

Monday: José Ortega Y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses* (New York: Norton, 1994 [1930]), 1-63 **and in-class essay**.

Wednesday: Ortega Y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses*, 64-124.

4. Week of July 20th-24th

Monday: Ortega Y Gasset, *The Revolt of the Masses*, 125-90.

Wednesday: Alan Buchanan. Theories of Secession. *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 26/1 (1997): 31-61.

Andrew Altman and Christopher Heath Wellman. Secession. *A Liberal Theory of International Justice* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 43-68.

5. Week of July 27th-31st

Monday: Chandran Kukathas, *Immigration and Freedom* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2021), 87-124, 231-57 **and in-class essay**.

Wednesday: *The Man Who Killed Don Quixote* (dir. Terry Gilliam, 133 min. 2018).

44. General Information

Office Hours

I am happy to meet with students during my office hours, which do not require an appointment. This quarter I am available on Zoom at <https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/lameymeetingroom>. I am also available by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about an exam or assignment due during exam week that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam or assignment deadline.
- b) Requests to discuss or adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter. If you are graduating let me know and we will make alternative arrangements.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing

protect the validity of intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind.

Note that unauthorized aid includes the use of artificial intelligence, including but not limited to ChatGPT, Google Gemini or Grammarly, when the latter is used to generate new text (a basic grammar check is fine). Please note that it is irrelevant if you've taken different classes with different AI policies. The policy in this class is simple and clear: all your words and ideas need to come from you, not AI. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html>

Health and Well-being

During your time at UCSD, you may experience a range of issues that can negatively impact your learning. These may include physical illness, housing or food insecurity, strained relationships, loss of motivation, depression, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol and drug problems, feeling down, interpersonal or sexual violence, or grief.

These concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and affect your ability to participate in day-to-day activities. If there are issues related to coursework that are a source of particular stress or challenge, please speak with me, Professor Lamey, so that I am able to support you. UC San Diego provides a number of resources to all enrolled students, including:

Counselling and Psychological Services (858-534-3755 | caps.ucsd.edu)
Student Health Services (858-534-3300 | studenthealth.ucsd.edu)
CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (858-534-5793 | care.ucsd.edu)
The Hub Basic Needs Center (858-246-2632 | basicneeds.ucsd.edu)

We care about you at UC San Diego, and there is always help available.