

**Junior Honors Seminar**  
**Professor Peter Unger**

**Spring Semester, 2014**  
**Thursdays 1:00PM to 3:00PM**

This course will be a discussion course where the professor will serve as little more than a guide and a facilitator. It will be the students whose remarks will take up the vast majority of the time of each of the class sessions, with the exception of the first and the last session in the course. Each week there will be either a single reading to be studied or else a very small group of connected readings.

With the exception of the first and last session, each weekly session will begin with one student, or perhaps occasionally two students, presenting his or her take on the reading assigned, along with some critical commentary of the reading and, in the ideal case, either the presentation of an alternative approach to the topic, that the student prefers, or suggestions on how the author of the reading might have improved her essay or book chapter. After the first four such sessions, further assigned readings may be suggested to the professor by students and, when approved, assigned to be read for a week to follow. As with the readings assigned for the earlier weeks, the sessions when these later readings are discussed will begin by a presentation from a student-commentator.

Written work will be required for the course, the specifics of which will become clearer as the course develops.

Readings for weeks two through five of the course will be in the general area of ethics and values, but later readings may very well be in other areas:

Week 2: Judith Jarvis Thomson (1983) "The Trolley Problem" online in *The Yale Law Journal*, Vol.94 no.6, (April, 1985): 1395-1415.

Peter Unger (1995) Chapter 4 of *Living High and Letting Die*, to be distributed in class.

Week 3: Derek Parfit (1997) "Equality and Priority" online in *Ratio* 10 (3) 202-22.

Week 4: Judith Jarvis Thomson (1971) "A Defense of Abortion" online in *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 1, no. 1, (August, 1971): 47-66.

Nicola Bourbaki (2001) online in *Philosophy*, Vol.76, No.297, (July, 2001), 435-442.

Week 5: Sharon Street (2009) "In Defense of Future Tuesday Indifference: Ideally Coherent Eccentrics and the Contingency of What Matters," online in *Philosophical Issues* (a supplement to *Noûs*), vol. 19 on "Metaethics," ed. Ernest Sosa, 2009, 273-298.