# Contemporary Moral Problems

## November 7, 2012

Peter Singer - Utilitarian

* **Absolute Poverty**
  + **Definition – Having less than is needed to provide oneself and ones dependents with the basic biological necessities (e.g. food, shelter, and medicine)**
  + **Absolute Affluence – Having more…**
* **The Shallow Pond**
  + There’s a child who is in a shallow pond. If nothing is done, he will die. There’s a cost to save the child because you will get your clothes wet, be late to class/work, etc.
* **The Argument**
  + *If we can prevent something very bad from happening without sacrificing anything of comparable moral significance, then we ought to do it.*
  + *Absolute poverty is very bad*
  + *We can prevent some absolute poverty without sacrificing anything of comparable moral significance*
  + *Therefore, we ought to prevent some absolute poverty*

## November 9, 2012

Singer Continued

* **Objections**