

Ethics and Public Policy

PSCI 469

Noel (Dane) Scott
Spring 2017
TR 9:30-10:50
Liberal Arts 344
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Office hours: TR: 2:00-3:00

Course Objectives

Students will demonstrate:

- An understanding of several approaches to moral reasoning and the basic concepts of important ethical traditions
- A familiarity with the major figures and ideas that shaped modern ethical theory
- The ability to identify and analyze ethical issues arising from a variety of public policies
- The ability to write a clearly organized and well supported argumentative essay

Texts:

- Michael Sandel, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*
- Rockstrom & Klum, *Big World, Small Planet: Abundance within Planetary Limits*
- Additional readings will be linked and posted on the course Moodle page

Assignments & Grading:

- Participation: 20 pts.
- Exam #1: 20 pts.
- Exam #2: 20 pts.
- Essay #1: 20 pts.
- Essay #2: 20 pts.

The +/- grading system will be used as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77 - 79 = C+; 73 - 76 = C; 70 - 72 = C-; 67 -69 = D+; 63 - 66 = D; 60 - 6 = D-; 0-59= F

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

Part I, Intro to Ethical Theory and Moral Philosophy

Week 1

1/24: Sandel, Chapter 1, "Do the Right Thing," Plato, "The Ring of Gyges" (Moodle)

1/26: Plato, *Crito*, *Republic*, "The Allegory of the Cave," "Ship of State Analogy" (Moodle)

Week 2

1/31: Sandel, Chapter 2, "The Greatest Happiness Principle / Utilitarianism"

2/2: Ursula LeGuin, "The One's Who Walk Away From Omelas" (Moodle)

Week 3:

2/7: Sandel, Chapter 3, "Do We Own Ourselves / Libertarianism"

2/9: Sandel, Chapter 4, "Hired Help / Markets and Morals"

Week 4:

2/14: Sandel, Chapter 5, "What Matters is the Motive / Immanuel Kant"

2/16: Sandel, Chapter 6, "The Case for Equity / John Rawls," Vonnegut, "Harrison Bergeron" (Moodle)

Week 5

2/21: Sandel, Chapter 8, "Who Deserves What? / Aristotle"

2/23: **Test #1**

Week 6

2/28: Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty" (Moodle)

3/2: Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 3,

Kant, "An Answer to the Question, What is Enlightenment?" (Moodle)

Week 7

3/7: Charles Taylor, *The Ethics of Authenticity*, selections (Moodle)

3/9: McIntyre, *After Virtue*, selections (Moodle)

McIntyre, "Epistemological Crises, Dramatic Narrative and the Philosophy of Science" (Moodle)

Week 8

3/14: Character, Temperament and Leadership (Readings TBA)

Essay # 1, Assigned, Due 3/30

3/16: Sunstein, "The Law of Group Polarization" (Moodle)

Week 9

Spring Break

Part II: Current Issues & Ethics and Public Policy

Week 10

3/28: Health Care Policy

Is Health Care a Right or a Privilege? (Readings TBA)

3/30: Peter Wehner, (Readings TBA)

Essay # 1, Due 3/30

Week 11

4/4: Health Care Policy

"Democratic Deliberations in Bioethics," President's Commission for the Study of Bioethics in Society (Moodle)

4/6: Military Policy

Peterson, "Is Obama's Drone War Moral?" (Moodle)

Week 12

4/11: Military Policy

President Obama and Reinhold Niebuhr (Readings TBA)

4/13: Andy Rotherham (Readings TBA)

Week 13

4/18: Military Policy

Jeffery Goldberg, interview with President Obama, "The Obama Doctrine" (Moodle)

4/20: Climate Change & Energy Policy

Dyson, "The Question of Global Warming" (Moodle)

Mann, "How to Talk About Climate Change so People Will Listen" (Moodle)

Essay # 2, Assigned, Due 4/27

Week 14

4/25: Climate Change & Energy Policy

Adler, "A Conservative's Approach to Combating Climate Change" (Moodle)

Naomi Klein, "Capitalism vs. the Climate" (Moodle)

4/27: *Big World, Small Planet*, Section I

Essay # 2 Due

Week 15

5/2: *Big World, Small Planet*, Section II

5/4 *Big World, Small Planet*, Section III

Nordhaus, Shellengberger, Blomqvist, "Planetary Boundary Hypothesis, A Review of the Evidence" (Moodle)

Week 16

5/8: Exam #2, 8:00AM to 10:00 AM

Academic Honesty

Students must practice academic honesty and should be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available at http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php.

Plagiarism: Blatant plagiarism will result in an automatic F on the assignment

Make-up Tests: Make-up tests will only be allowed if the instructor is informed *prior* to the test.

Late papers: Papers will be penalized 2 pts. /day after the **time** and **date** papers are due.

Disabilities

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or 406-243-2243.

Drop Policy, Grading Options, and Incompletes

The 15th day of the semester is the last day to drop the class or change the grading option without an override form. For UM's policy on incompletes, see http://archive.umt.edu/catalog/14_15/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php