Syllabus

PSCI 469, Ethics and Public Policy (Spring 2018)

- Meeting Times: TR 9:30-10:50
- Location: Mansfield Center Conference Room, MILB 454
- Instructor: Noel (Dane) Scott
- Office: Mansfield Center, MLIB 464
- Phone: 243-6632
- Email: dane.scott@mso.umt.edu
- Office hours: Thursdays, 1:00-2:00

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?
- Charles Taylor, The Ethics of Authenticity
- John Stewart Mills, On Liberty
- Aldous Huxley, Brave New World

Additional readings will be linked and posted on the course Moodle page

Requirements

- 20 points (20%), Participation and Attendance: Participation grades will be based on three factors: attendance, involvement in discussions, and random quizzes on readings and lectures.
- 40 points (40%) Essays 1 & 2 (20 pts/each): Students will demonstrate the ability to construct an argumentative essay. You will receive handouts on the requirements, grading, and due dates for the two essay assignments.
- 40 points (40%), Tests 1 & 2 (20 pts/each): The format will be short-answer and essay questions.

Grading Scale:

- 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

Late Work and Make-up Policies

- Make-up tests will only be allowed if the instructor is informed prior to the test.
- Late papers will be penalized 4 pts/day after the due date.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments:

Week 1

- 1/23: Course Introduction
• 1/25: Sandel, Chapter 1, “Do the Right Thing,” Plato, “The Ring of Gyges” (Moodle)

Week 2
• 1/30: Plato, Crito, “The Allegory of the Cave” & “Ship of State Analogy” (Moodle)

Week 3
• 2/6: Ursula LeGuin, “The One’s Who Walk Away From Omelas” (Moodle)
• 2/8: Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty” (Moodle)
• 2/8: Essay #1, Assigned, Due 2/22

Week 4
• 2/13: Sandel, Chapter 3, “Do We Own Ourselves / Libertarianism”
• 2/15: Mills, On Liberty

Week 5
• 2/20: Mills, On Liberty
• 2/22: Sandel, Chapter 8, ”Who Deserves What? / Aristotle”
• 2/22: Essay #1 Due

Week 6
• 2/27: Sandel, Chapter 4, “Hired Help / Markets and Morals”
• 3/1: Sandel, Chapter 5, “What Matters is the Motive / Immanuel Kant” & Kant, “Perpetual Peace” (Moodle)

Week 7
• 3/6: Sandel, Chapter 6, “The Case for Equity / John Rawls” & Vonnegut, “Harrison Bergeron” (Moodle)
• 3/8: Exam #1

Week 8
• 3/13: Topic: Polarization, Reading: TBA
• 3/15: On Being, Krista Tippet, David Brooks and E.J. Dionne, Sinfulness, Hopelessness and the Possibility of Politics, Listen to Podcast or read transcript (linked on Moodle)

Week 9
• 3/20: Topic & Reading, TBA
• 3/22: Topic & Reading, TBA

Week 10
Spring Break

Week 11
• 4/3: Martha Nussbaum, “Philosophy in the Service of Humanity” (Moodle)
• 4/5: Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities, Entitlements, Rights: Supplementation and Critique” (Moodle)

Week 12
• 4/10: Topic: Climate Change Policy, Reading TBA
• 4/12: Topic: Climate Change Policy, Reading TBA
• Essay #2, Assigned
**Week 13**
- 4/19: Huxley, *Brave New World*

**Week 14**
- 4/24: Huxley, *Brave New World*
- Essay #2, Due

**Week 15**
- 5/1: Taylor, *The Ethics of Authenticity* V, VI, & VII (Moodle)
- 5/6: Taylor, *Ethics of Authenticity* VIII, IX, & X (Moodle)

**Exam #2**
5/8, 8:00-10:00AM

**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](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). Plagiarism: Blatant plagiarism will result in an automatic F on the assignment.

**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](http://archive.umt.edu/catalog/14_15/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php)