Spring 2-1-2016

PSCI 469.01: Ethics and Public Policy

Dane Scott

The University Of Montana

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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
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”

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)

**Week 7**
3/7: Charles Taylor, *The Ethics of Authenticity*, selections (Moodle)
3/9: McIntryre, *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](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](http://archive.umt.edu/catalog/14_15/academics/academic-policy-procedure.php)