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### PSC 460.01: ST - Ethics and Government

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Political Science 460  
**ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT**

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Office Hours: MWF 10-11:30am, 2-3pm or by appt  
Class Time: MWF 9:10-10am  
Class Location: LA 337

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the issue of ethics and government. It is suggested that every public servant has a moral obligation to strive for excellence in the performance of their public duties. The question is, should this moral obligation also involve ones personal life? This course focuses on developing an understanding of ethics and applying that understanding to work-life situations. The course introduces the concepts of ethics and morals; integrity; compromise; ethical citizenship and civic virtue. All of these concepts are essential when discussing the ethical challenges in public service. This course provides a basis for developing an understanding and applying the theories of ethics to the role of a public administrator.

### **Course Objectives**

1. To acquire substantive knowledge and understanding of the theories of ethics, compromise, and integrity and their importance to the field of public administration.
2. To develop the ability to recognize and apply this understanding to relevant issues and situations facing public managers in their daily operations.

### **Required Texts**

- 1) *The Ethics Challenge In Public Service*, Carol W. Lewis and Stewart C. Gilman, Jossey-Bass, Second Edition, ISBN 0-7879-6756-4
- 2) *Splitting the Difference: Compromise and Integrity in Ethics and Politics*, Martin Benjamin, University Press of Kansas, ISBN 0-7006-0455-3
- 3) *The Ethics Challenge: Strengthening Your Integrity In A Greedy World*, Bob Stone and Mick Ukleja, Morgan James Publishing, ISBN 978-1-60037-609-2

### **Course Requirements**

This course requires **active student participation**. This is an upper level course and **assignments and discussion should reflect an upper level of thought and effort**. Students are

required to read all assigned readings, be prepared to discuss them in class, take three (3) exams, and submit two (2) writing assignments. Each exam is worth 100 points and the writing assignments 50 points each. The two (2) writing assignments are short writing assignments and are to be two-to-three pages in length, double-spaced. Place your name in the upper left hand corner of the paper. Assignments will be assessed (graded) based on your presentation of your knowledge and understanding of the concepts being presented. This includes your ability to interpret, comprehend, analyze, apply and explain these concepts. Writing assignments will be graded on the following rubric:

**Criteria for Grading**

**Writing Assignments 1 and 2**

	D-	C-	B-	A-	A	
1. Thoroughness of answer	1	2	3	4	5	X3=
2. Sophistication of analysis/understanding	1	2	3	4	5	X3=
3. Organization & logical development	1	2	3	4	5	X3=
4. Clarity of expression	1	2	3	4	5	X1=
5. Grammar and punctuation	See Below					

1. Thoroughness of answer. The best essays address a theme or thesis thoroughly and with sufficient detail to demonstrate that the subject is fully understood.
  
2. Sophistication of analysis. In the best essays, the author does much more than just explain or describe. He or she demonstrates having thought about the subject in depth. The subject is analyzed from many angles and assessed critically.
  
3. Organization and logical development. The best essays show evidence of prior planning as if they have been outlined in advance. They have a purpose or theme which is introduced in the introduction, developed in the body of the essay and returned to in the conclusion. Paragraphs are well constructed and are linked to each other in a logical sequence using transitional sentences. Arguments, examples, facts, opinions, and details explain the main point and lend credibility to each point being developed.
  
4. Clarity of expression. In the best essays, words are chosen carefully and sentences are constructed purposefully so that each point the author makes is expressed as exactly, precisely, and clearly as possible.
  
5. Grammar, punctuation, and spelling. The best essays are characterized by consistently correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling. Verbs agree with their subjects. There are no single-sentence paragraphs, sentence fragments, or run-on sentences.

One point will be subtracted for each occurrence of the following:

- i. single sentence paragraph

- ii. verb-subject disagreement
- iii. sentence fragment (incomplete sentence)
- iv. run-on sentence
- v. contractions
- vi. misspelling

Grades will be determined by the following points earned for the course:

A =	372-400	B- =	320-331	D+ =	268-279
A- =	360-371	C+ =	308-319	D =	252-267
B+ =	348-359	C =	292-307	D- =	240-251
B =	332-347	C- =	280-291	F =	0-239

**Sources for Writing Assignments:** The availability of potential sources for student use in developing writing assignments will be discussed in class. Students are encouraged to utilize sources provided in and through the Mansfield Library.

### Special Increment for Graduate Students

Graduate students are required to develop a 1-2 page (double-spaced) case study based on personal experience that raises an important ethical problem or issue. Students are then required to identify appropriate analytical questions and proceed to write a three (3) page analysis of the case. This will be graded as one paper assignment. The instructor must review and approve the 1-2 page case study prior to the graduate student proceeding to write the three (3) page analysis. This increment is worth fifty (50) points, so grades for graduate students will be determined on four hundred fifty (450) points. **Graduate student grades** will be determined by the following scale:

A =	419-450	B- =	360-373	D+ =	302-314
A- =	405-418	C+ =	347-359	D =	284-301
B+ =	392-404	C =	329-346	D- =	270-283
B =	374-391	C- =	315-328	F =	0-269

**Special Assignment for Graduate Students:** Graduate students are required to complete a graduate increment. This will be arranged with the instructor.

**PSC 400:** Students enrolled in this optional one-credit, co-requisite course will write a ten page essay on a course-related topic approved by the instructor. Students may rewrite the essay and submit it for a new grade. The important facets of writing must be discussed with the instructor prior to writing the essay (style, organization, sources, and method of citation and documentation). The essay is worth 100 points and will be graded based upon content (clarity and validity of argument) and writing (grammar, diction, syntax, and logical development).

## Your Work Product

This is an upper level course and assignments, test responses, and discussions should reflect an upper level of thought, effort, and analysis. You are taking this course under the provisions set forth in The University of Montana Conduct Code...remember plagiarism and its consequences.

If you are going to miss an exam or be late with an assignment, notify me in advance of the test or assignment due date.

## Weekly Reading, Tests, and Writing Assignments

Monday 25 January	<u>Introduction to Ethics and Government</u>
Wednesday 27 January	<u>Getting Comfortable With Ethics</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 1, Pages 1-8
Friday 29 January	<u>Introduction to Ethics and Government - Continued</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis-Gilman, Introduction, Pages 1-18
Monday 01 February	<u>What Ethics is and What Ethics is Not</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 2, Pages 9-16
Wednesday 03 February	<u>Ethics – Case 1 When is Too Much Power...Too Much Power?</u>  <b>**Begin Writing Assignment 1 – Due Wednesday 10 February**</b>
Friday 05 February	<u>What is Important in Public Service</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis-Gilman, Chapter 1, Pages 21-51
Monday 08 February	<u>Obeying and Implementing the Law</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 2, Pages 52-72
Wednesday 10 February	<u>Obeying and Implementing the Law – (Continued)</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 3, Pages 17-22  <b>** Writing Assignment 1 – Due Today**</b>
Friday 12 February	<u>Ethics – Case 2 NASA’s Problem</u>

<b>Monday 15 February</b>	<b>Holiday – Washington / Lincoln Day - No Class</b>
Wednesday 17 February	<u>Meaning of Compromise</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 1, Pages 4-23 <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 4, Pages 23-38
Friday 19 February	<u>Moral Compromise</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 2, Pages 24-45
Monday 22 February	<u>Ethics Discussion</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 5, Pages 39-48
Wednesday 24 February	<b><u>Exam 1 – Optional Review</u></b>
Friday 26 February	<b><u>Exam 1</u></b>
Monday 01 March	<u>Integrity</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 3, Pages 46-74 <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 6, Pages 49-56
Wednesday 03 March	<u>Ethics – Case 3 Does Accepting Gifts Affect One’s Integrity?</u>  <b>**Begin Writing Assignment 2 – Due Wednesday 10 March**</b>
Friday 05 March	<u>Compromise and Ethical Theory</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 4, Pages 75-106
Monday 08 March	<u>Ethics – Case 4 Iraq War</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 7, Pages 57-62
Wednesday 10 March	<u>Judgment and the Art of Compromise</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 5, Pages 107-139 <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 8, Pages 63-66  <b>**Writing Assignment 2 – Due Today**</b>
Friday 12 March	<u>Ethics – Case 5 Public Opinion - Media</u>
Monday 15 March	<u>Serving the Public Interest</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 3, Pages 73-97 <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 9, Pages 67-72

Wednesday 17 March	<u>Compromise and Integrity in Politics / Taking Individual Responsibility</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 6, Pages 139-174
Friday 19 March	<u>Taking Individual Responsibility</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 4, Pages 98-118
Monday 22 March	<u>Ethics – Case 6 Pentagon Papers</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 10, Pages 73-76
Wednesday 24 March	<b><u>Exam 2 – Optional Review</u></b>
Friday 26 March	<b><u>EXAM 2</u></b>
<b>Monday 29 March</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
<b>Wednesday 31 April</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
<b>Friday 02 April</b>	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
Monday 05 April	<u>Ethical Standards and Reasoning</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 5, Pages 119-140 <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 12, Pages 83-88
Wednesday 07 April	<u>Ethics – Case 7 Capital Punishment</u>
Friday 9 April	<u>Resolving Ethical Dilemmas</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 6, Pages 141-160
Monday 12 April	<u>Ethics – Case 8 Affirmative Action</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 11, Pages 77-82
Wednesday 14 April	<u>Understanding Who and What Matters</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 7, Pages 161-182
<b>Friday 16 April</b>	<b>National Conference on Undergraduate Research – No Class</b>

Monday 19 April	<u>Ethics – Case 9 Playing Politics With Disaster (Mining)</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 13 and 14, Pages 89-106
Wednesday 21 April	<u>Designing and Implementing Codes</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 8, Pages 183-219
Friday 23 April	<u>Ethics – Case 10 Population Control</u>
Monday 26 April	<u>Broadening the Horizon</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 9, Pages 220-234 <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapters 15 and 16, Pages 107-122
Wednesday 28 April	<u>Ethics – Case 11 Terrorism and the Morality of War</u>
Friday 30 April	<u>Building an Ethical Agency / The Job Ahead</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 10, Pages 235-271
Monday 03 May	<u>An Ethic of Citizenship</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge</i> , Stone-Ukleja, Chapter 17, Pages 123-128
Wednesday 05 May	<u>An Ethic of Citizenship – (Continued)</u>
Friday 06 May	<b><u>Final Exam – Optional Review</u></b>
Friday 14 May	<b><u>Final Exam - Time 10:00 am - Noon</u></b>