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### PSC 485.01: Ethics and Government

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Political Science 485  
**ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT**  
Spring 2009

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Office: Corbin 252  
Office Hours: MWF 1-2 pm or by appt  
Class Time: MWF 2-3pm  
Class Location: LA 308

### **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

### **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.

A = 372-400 points	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 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).

### Reading Assignments

Monday 26 January	<u>Introduction to Ethics and Government</u>
Wednesday 28 January	<u>Getting Comfortable With Ethics</u>
Friday 30 January	<u>Introduction to Ethics and Government - Continued</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis-Gilman, Introduction, Pages 1-18
Monday 02 February	<u>What Ethics is and What Ethics is Not</u>
Wednesday 04 February	<u>Ethics – Case 1 Handout</u> <b><i>The New Manager Wants to Shoot Santa Claus, Samuel Humes</i></b> <b>**Begin Writing Assignment 1 – Due Wednesday 11 February**</b>

Friday 06 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 09 February	<u>Obeying and Implementing the Law</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service</i> , Lewis Gilman, Chapter 2, Pages 52-72
Wednesday 11 February	<u>Obeying and Implementing the Law – (Continued)</u> <b>** Writing Assignment 1 – Due Today**</b>
Friday 13 February	<u>Ethics – Case 2 Handout</u> <b><i>Space Shuttle Challenger</i></b>
Monday 16 February	<b>Holiday – Washington / Lincoln Day - No Class</b>
Wednesday 18 February	<u>Meaning of Compromise</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter1, Pages 4-23
Friday 20 February	<u>Moral Compromise</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 2, Pages 24-45
Monday 23 February	<u>Ethics Discussion</u>
Wednesday 25 February	<b><u>Exam 1 – Optional Review</u></b>
Friday 27 February	<b><u>Exam 1</u></b>
Monday 02 March	<u>Integrity</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 3, Pages 46-74
Wednesday 04 March	<u>Ethics – Case 3 Handout</u> <b><i>Wait Until Evening, Power Broker, Robert Caro</i></b> <b>**Begin Writing Assignment 2 – Due Monday 11 March**</b>
Friday 06 March	<u>Compromise and Ethical Theory</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 4, Pages 75-106
Monday 09 March	<u>Ethics – Case 4 Handout</u> <b><i>Iraq War</i></b>
Wednesday 11 March	<u>Judgment and the Art of Compromise</u> <i>Splitting the Difference</i> , Benjamin, Chapter 5, Pages 107-139

**\*\*Writing Assignment 2 – Due Today\*\***

Friday 13 March	<u>Ethics – Case 5 Handout</u> <b><i>Vietnam: Public Opinion - Media</i></b>
Monday 16 March	<u>Serving the Public Interest</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 3, Pages 73-97</i>
Wednesday 18 March	<u>Compromise and Integrity in Politics / Taking Individual Responsibility</u> <i>Splitting the Difference, Benjamin, Chapter 6, Pages 139-174</i>
Friday 20 March	<u>Taking Individual Responsibility</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 4, Pages 98-118</i>
Monday 23 March	<u>Ethics – Case 6 Handout</u> <b><i>Pentagon Papers</i></b>
Wednesday 25 March	<b><u>Exam 2 – Optional Review</u></b>
Friday 27 March	<b><u>EXAM 2</u></b>
Monday 30 March	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
Wednesday 01 April	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
Friday 03 April	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
Monday 06 April	<u>Ethical Standards and Reasoning</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 5, Pages 119-140</i>
Wednesday 08 April	<u>Ethics – Case 7 Handout</u> <b><i>Capital Punishment</i></b>
Friday 10 April	<u>Resolving Ethical Dilemmas</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 6, Pages 141-160</i>
Monday 13 April	<u>Ethics – Case 8 Handout</u> <b><i>Affirmative Action</i></b>

Wednesday 15 April	<u>Understanding Who and What Matters</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 7, Pages 161-182</i>
Friday 17 April	<u>Ethics – Case 9 Handout</u> <b><i>Mining Disaster</i></b>
Monday 20 April	<u>Designing and Implementing Codes</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 8, Pages 183-219</i>
Wednesday 22 April	<u>Ethics Discussion</u>
Friday 24 April	<u>Ethics – Case 10 Handout</u> <b><i>Moral Problems of Population</i></b>
Monday 27 April	<u>Broadening the Horizon</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 9, Pages 220-234</i>
Wednesday 29 April	<u>Ethics – Case 11 Handout</u> <b><i>Terrorism and Morality of War</i></b>
Friday 01 May	<u>Building an Ethical Agency / The Job Ahead</u> <i>The Ethics Challenge in Public Service, Lewis Gilman, Chapter 10, Pages 235-271</i>
Monday 04 May	<u>An Ethic of Citizenship</u>
Wednesday 06 May	<u>An Ethic of Citizenship – (Continued)</u>
Friday 08 May	<b><u>Final Exam – Optional Review</u></b>
Tuesday 12 May	<b><u>Final Exam - Time 3:20 pm – 5:20 pm</u></b>