

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Spring 2-1-2018

### PSCI 469.00: Ethics and Public Policy

Noel Dane Scott

*University of Montana, Missoula*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Scott, Noel Dane, "PSCI 469.00: Ethics and Public Policy" (2018). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7891.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7891>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

# 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](mailto: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)
- 2/1: Sandel, Chapter 2, “The Greatest Happiness Principle / Utilitarianism”

### 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 Tippett, 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

- 4/17: Hans Jonas, *The Ethics of Responsibility* (selections on Moodle)
- 4/19: Huxley, *Brave New World*

### Week 14

- 4/24: Huxley, *Brave New World*
- 4/26: Taylor, *The Ethics of Authenticity* I, II, III, & IV (Moodle)
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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)