Spring 2-1-2018

PSCI 469.00: Ethics and Public Policy

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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

**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: 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
- 4/19: 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).