Introduction and Course Description

This minicourse will assist students to understand the role of ethics in public policy. The first section of the minicourse will be devoted to a discussion of the nature of ethics and applied ethics. Here a framework useful in the ethical analysis of issues, problems and dilemmas in public life will be constructed.

The second section of the course will demonstrate the usefulness of this framework in the analysis and evaluation of policy issues from a normative point of view. In this section, various arguments concerning the nature of the social ethics that form the background of policy debates also will be a focus in the minicourse.

Among the various issues that will be addressed in the relationship of ethics to public policy, the course will consider: reproductive rights matters, end-of-life decisions, questions about free speech, social and economic justice and environmental considerations.

Course Objectives

The course will rely heavily upon the case analysis method, group discussion and lecturettes. The educational objectives of the course include the following competencies where students will:

1. Identify relationships among ethics and public policy and develop a conscience of various ethical issues embedded in public policies, through case analysis, group discussion and lectures.

2. Have confidence in the ability to apply basic ethical concepts, principles and theory.

3. Defend positions on topics in ethics and public policy in both written and oral formats and prepare defensible ethical and normative judgments.

Mincourse Schedule (tentative)

Minicourse Schedule -- Tentative item options Hide Details
January 23 -- Introduction to Ethical Theory and Applied Ethics

January 30 -- 1. Sexual Morality; 2. Abortion
Read Chapters 4 and 1 in Mappes and Zembaty

February 6 -- 1. Euthanasia/Physician Assisted Suicide; 2. The Death Penalty
Read Chapters 2 and 3 in Mappes and Zembaty

Read Chapters 8 and 9 in Mappes and Zembaty
Short E&PP Analysis Paper due date

February 20 -- 1. Pornography and Free Speech; 2. Liberty Issues: Drug
Addiction and Terrorism
Read Chapters 5, 6 and 7 in Mappes and Zembaty

February 27-- 1. Animals Rights; 2. Environmental Issues
Read Chapters 10 and 11 in Mappes and Zembaty

March 5 -- Long E&PP Research Paper due date

Assigned Readings

Social Ethics: Morality and Social Policy by Thomas A. Mappes and Jane S.
Bookstore.

Ethics: A Pluralistic Approach to Moral Theory by Lawrence M. Hinman, Fourth

There will be additional readings available on the Internet for some class
sessions as announced or stated in the Blackboard website for the course.
Handouts will also be made available as needed for class discussion.

Student Requirements

There are two student requirements in this minicourse. First, students will
complete a short E&PP (ethics & public policy) analysis of a current event that
will be distributed in class on November 8. This will be in the form of a news item
or article, an Internet page, a letter to the editor or some other medium
embodying an ethically charged public policy issue. This issue will be analyzed
using the ethical framework developed in class discussions. This short E&PP
analysis has no minimum or maximum number of pages, but it should be typed
and double spaced. Students will have one week to work on this issue and
submit it on February 13.
The second student requirement is an E&PP research paper that is due on the last day of class, March 5. This research paper should address an E&PP topic that the student can identify as being central to and important in the profession that she or he is planning to enter after finishing her or his formal studies. For example, a student who plans to enter the field of information technology might choose an issue about the reasonable expectation of privacy that workers have with respect to their use of their workplace computers and any public policy that has been central to this question of worker privacy. The goal of this project will be for you to do solid research on an E&PP topic that will be affecting your professional life. This E&PP research paper should include at least two sources whose positions on the topic present opposing views in a 12-page paper, double spaced.

**Grading**

Grades for the minicourse will be devised as follows:

Short E&PP Analysis: 30 points  
E&PP Research Paper: 70 points

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<td>A+</td>
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**Course Policies**

**Extensions of Assignment Due Dates**

Requests for extensions of assignment due date or for course incompletes will be granted only for medical reasons with evidence of medical need or in cases of a non-medical emergency.

**Extra Credit**

There is no extra credit work available in this course.
Students with Disabilities

If you have a qualifying disability, please feel free to request accommodation from your instructor. In addition, Carnegie Mellon recommends that you contact Equal Opportunity Services (EOS). Contact Larry Powell, EOS Coordinator, at 412-268-2013. See:


Heinz School Policy

ETHICS & DISCIPLINE

The Heinz School is a professional school that is designed to prepare students for responsible positions requiring the trust and confidence of the public. Therefore, the School must demand the highest ethical standards of its students. The two cornerstones of these ethical standards are honesty and concern for others. The Heinz School will not tolerate plagiarism, false presentation of the extent of individual contributions to joint efforts, cheating, or falsification of records. It will also not tolerate disruptive behavior, ethnic intimidation, sexual harassment, moral turpitude, illegal activities, or violation of Heinz School or university regulations. Students who do so will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including possible expulsion.

8.1 Cheating and Plagiarism Plagiarism and other forms of academic misrepresentation are viewed as extremely serious matters. Misrepresentation of another’s work as one's own is widely recognized as among the most serious violations. The violation is clearly flagrant when it occurs as plagiarism on a required paper or as cheating on an examination, including take-home as well as in-class examinations. The punishment for such offenses can involve expulsion from the School. There are many other ways in which violations can occur. The circumstances and the rules may vary for different courses, and each instructor will establish his or her own rules for a particular course. Each student is responsible for understanding these rules. If a student has failed a course because of a cheating violation and then retakes the course, both the failing grade and the new grade will be used in the calculation of the student's QPA. Cases of cheating and plagiarism will be reviewed by the Dean, who may impose additional penalties up to and including expulsion from the school. Students should understand clearly that such offenses are not tolerated in this community.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to: 1. Plagiarism (explained below); 2. Submission of work that is not the student's own; 3. Submission or use of falsified data; 4. Unauthorized access to an exam or assignment; 5. Use of a stand-in for an exam; 6. Use of unauthorized material in the preparation of an assignment or during an examination; 7. Supplying or communicating unauthorized information to another student for use in an assignment or exam; 8. Unauthorized
collaboration on an assignment. Collaboration must be explicitly permitted by an instructor for it to be considered authorized. 9. Submission of the same work for credit in more than one course.

Plagiarism is the failure to indicate the source of work - either with quotation marks or footnotes. The source can be: 1. A phrase; 2. A graphic element; 3. A proof; 4. Specific language; 5. An idea derived from the work of another person. Note that material on the web is another person's work and is therefore equally subject to the rules on plagiarism and cheating as any other source material.