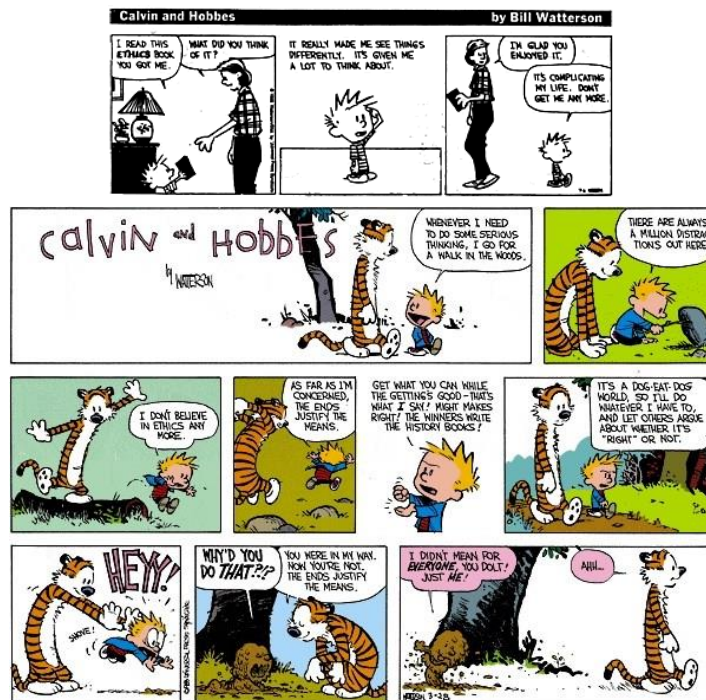


POLS 2010
Ethics and Politics
Fall 2019
TTH 9:30-10:45
Professor Chris Duncan. Ph.D.

Instructor: Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.
Office: McGannon Hall 149
Email: chris.duncan@slu.edu
Office Hours: TTH 8: 30-9:15 & 10:45-11:30.
Phone: 314-977-9862
Class Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 in Davis-Shaughnessy Hall 260



Course Objectives

This course challenges students to explore the relationship between moral values and political choices. Focusing on contemporary political issues, problems, and policies, we examine how different political philosophies, including Catholic social justice principles, provide different frameworks for judging the consequences of our political choices.

All political and policy questions presuppose a normative framework. Often this framework is simply assumed without explication. In doing so, policy makers and students alike neglect to account for and examine rigorously and critically the preconceived ethical and moral foundations upon which they base their work and study. This course is designed to accomplish two broad tasks. First, to acquaint the student of politics in a systematic manner with the rudiments of various schools of thought concerning moral theory and the larger questions that have emerged from said theory. Second, to demonstrate through various case studies and issue areas how those models have been, and could be, applied to political debates, constitutional questions, law, and policy choices.

Once these goals are accomplished, the hope is that those engaged in the study of politics will have a significantly more comprehensive view of the philosophic process, and that they will be better situated to assess outcomes in a deeper and more systematic manner.

The learning goals for the course include:

1. Students will be able to identify and apply a number of well-established ethical frameworks and bodies of thought to social and political issues and questions.
2. Students will be able to contrast those frameworks with each other so as to see how different approaches might yield different outcomes or conclusions.
3. Students will become more reflective about their own ethical commitments and patterns of thought.
4. Students will come to certain conclusions about difficult political positions and issues and be able to articulate their positions and the rationale for them in well-reasoned ways.

Course Attributes:

Global Local Justice-Elective, Social Science Requirement (A&S), Urban Poverty - Social Justice, Diversity in the US (A&S)

Required Texts*

1. *Ethics: The Fundamentals* by Julia Driver
2. *Social Ethics: Morality and Social Policy* by Thomas Mappes, Jane Zembaty, and David DeGrazia

*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(10) Quizzes	100 points (10 points each)*
(1) Mid-term Examination	100 points
(1) Final Examination	100 points
(2) Issue Papers	<u>100 points (50 points each)</u>
	400 points total

*There are no make-up quizzes. To provide some relief in case of absence every student gets 20 bonus points to start the course. This would allow you to miss two quizzes without penalty to your grade. However, if you take all 10 quizzes then the 20 points will count as extra credit toward your final grade.

Grade Scale in Points

400-368=	A
367-360=	A-
359-348=	B+

347-328=	B
327-320=	B-
319-312=	C+
311-288=	C
387-280=	C-
279-220=	D
Below 220=	F

Examinations

The mid-term exam and the final will have both online components and take-home essays. The exams will include multiple choice, short answer questions, and longer integrative essay questions.

Academic Integrity and Honor Code

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy was adopted in Spring 2015, and can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at:

http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/Universitywide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%206-26-15.pdf.

Disability Services

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Please contact Disability Services, located within the Student Success Center, at Disability_services@slu.edu or **314.977.3484** to schedule an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services and viewed within Banner via the instructor's course roster.

Student Success Center:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about: Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor. University-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Discrimination Policy:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX coordinator, Anna R. Kratky (DuBourg Hall, room 36; akratky@slu.edu; **314-977-3886**) and share the basic

fact of your experience with her. The Title IX coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK. To view SLU's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address: <http://www.slu.edu/general-counsel-home/office-of-institutional-equity-and-diversity/sexual-misconduct-policy> www.slu.edu/here4you.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Any student with more than **3** absences automatically has his or her total points reduced by 10. All subsequent absences reduce the grade by 10 points each time.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

October 21-22	Fall Break (no classes)
November 27-30	Thanksgiving Break (no class)

Course Outline

August 27	Introduction to Course and American Politics Review - No Readings
August 29	American Political Culture - No Readings
September 3	The Question of Relativism - <i>Ethics</i> : Introduction and Chapter 1
September 5	Natural Law and the God Question - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 2 Quiz #1
September 10	Utilitarianism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 3 Quiz #2
September 12	Contemporary Consequentialism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 4 Quiz #3

September 17	Kant and Deontology - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 5 Quiz #4
September 19	Social Contract Theory - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 6 Quiz #5
September 24	Common Sense and Intuitionism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 7 Quiz #6
September 26	Virtue Ethics - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 Quiz #7
October 1	Feminism and the Ethics of Care - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 9 Quiz #8
October 3	Nihilism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 10 Quiz #9
Take-Home Midterm Examination Handed Out	
October 8	Abortion I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 1 Quiz #10
Midterm Examination Due at the Start of Class	
October 10	Abortion II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 1
October 15	Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 2
October 17	Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 2
October 24	The Death Penalty I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 3
October 29	The Death Penalty II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 3
October 31	Pornography, Hate Speech and Censorship I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 5

November 5	Pornography, Hate Speech and Censorship II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 5
November 7	Terrorism, Human Rights, and Torture I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 7
November 12	Terrorism, Human Rights, and Torture II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 7
November 14	Poverty and Economic Justice I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 8
November 19	Poverty and Economic Justice II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 8
November 21	Animal Rights I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 9
November 26	Animal Rights II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 9
December 3	Environmental Ethics and Climate Change I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 10
December 5	Environmental Ethics and Climate Change II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 10
	Take-Home Final Examination Handed Out
December 17	Take Home Final Examination due between 8:00-9:50 in McGannon 149.

