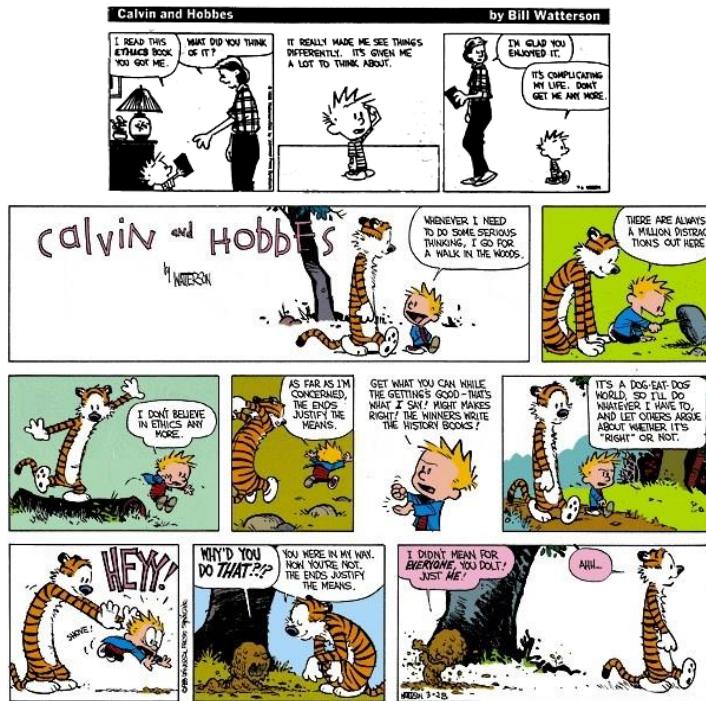


POLS 2010
Ethics and Politics
Fall 2020
MW 2:10-3:25
Professor Chris Duncan, Ph.D.

Instructor: Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.
Office: McGannon Hall 149
Email: chris.duncan@slu.edu
Office Hours: MWF 9-11 and by appointment via Zoom or In-Person
Phone: 314-977-9862
Class Meets: In 141 Spring Hall



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:

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| (10) Quizzes | 100 points (10 points each)* |
| (1) Mid-term Examination | 150 points |
| (1) Final Examination | <u>150 points</u> |
| | 400 points total |

Grade Scale in Points

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| 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 and Quizzes

Quizzes will be administered through the course's Black Board site. They will open and close at specific times and will be multiple choice/true and false.

The Mid-term Exam and the Final Exam will be comprised of both timed online components (multiple choice/true-false) and integrative essay and short answer questions. The instructor will provide a grading rubric prior to be used prior to the first exam.

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 19 Fall Break (no classes)

Course Outline

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| August 17 | Introduction to Course and American Politics Review - No Readings |
| August 19 | American Political Culture - No Readings |
| August 24 | The Question of Relativism - <i>Ethics</i> : Introduction and Chapter 1 |
| August 26 | Natural Law and the God Question - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 2 |
| August 26 | Quiz #1 |
| August 31 | Utilitarianism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 3 |
| September 2 | Contemporary Consequentialism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 4 |
| September 2 | Quiz #2 |
| September 7 | Kant and Deontology - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 5 |
| September 9 | Social Contract Theory - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 6 |
| September 9 | Quiz #3 |
| September 14 | Common Sense and Intuitionism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 7 |
| September 16 | Virtue Ethics - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 |

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| September 16 | Quiz #4 |
| September 21 | Feminism and the Ethics of Care - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 9 |
| September 23 | Nihilism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 10 |
| September 23 | Midterm Examination Opened |
| September 28 | Abortion I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 1 |
| September 30 | Abortion II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 1 |
| September 30 | Midterm Examination Closed |
| October 5 | Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 2 |
| October 5 | Quiz #5 |
| October 7 | Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 2 |
| October 12 | The Death Penalty I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 3 |
| October 14 | The Death Penalty II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 3 |
| October 14 | Quiz #6 |
| October 21 | Pornography, Hate Speech and Censorship I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 5 |
| October 26 | Pornography, Hate Speech and Censorship II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 5 |

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| October 26 | Quiz #7 |
| October 28 | Terrorism, Human Rights, and Torture I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 7 |
| November 2 | Terrorism, Human Rights, and Torture II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 7 |
| November 2 | Quiz #8 |
| November 4 | Poverty and Economic Justice I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 |
| November 9 | Poverty and Economic Justice II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 |
| November 11 | Poverty and Economic Justice III - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 |
| November 9 | Quiz # 9 |
| November 16 | Environmental Ethics and Climate Change I - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 10 |
| November 18 | Environmental Ethics and Climate Change II - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 10 |
| November 23 | Environmental Ethics and Climate Change III - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 10 |
| November 23 | Quiz #10 |
| November 23 | Final Examination Opened |
| December 2 | Final Examination Closed |

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 fulfills 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 full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at Disability_services@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services and within the instructor’s official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard language for syllabus statements related to disability accommodations. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for syllabus requirements from their dean’s office.

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 harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. 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.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at https://www.lighthouse-services.com/_StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory in person for those who are registered for in-person classes. Any student with more than **2** absences automatically has his or her total points reduced by **10 points**. All subsequent absences reduce the grade by **5 points** each time. For those students who have either opted to take the class virtually or find themselves at some point in the semester unable to attend in person, they are required to view the digitally captured class sessions within two days of the original class through the course's Black Board site. Failure to view the class session in its entirety will be treated like an in-person class absence. If for some reason the nature of the student's illness or other events outside of their control prevents the student from participating as required they should contact the instructor immediately to make alternative arrangements for fulfilling the course requirements.

Mandatory Statement on Face Masks (Fall 2020)

The University's [Interim Policy on Face Masks](#) governs all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors in all University-owned, leased, or operated facilities. All persons physically present in any such University facility associated with this course shall comply fully with this policy at all times. Masks must be worn before entry to all such University facilities (as well as outdoors on all University property when six feet of distance is unpredictable or cannot be maintained).

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services or Human Resources to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [ADA Policy](#). Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the [Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity](#). Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

As the instructor of this course, I shall comply fully with SLU's policy and all related ADA regulations.

Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to wear masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks at any time during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.

Note: Accordingly, no consumption of any food will be allowed in class.

Students who do not comply with a request by a SLU instructor to wear a mask in accordance with the University's *Interim Policy on Face Masks* may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:

- dismissal from the course(s)
- removal from campus housing (if applicable)
- dismissal from the University

To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with faculty or staff request to wear a mask in accordance with University policy.

Students are strongly encouraged to identify to their instructor any student or instructor not in compliance. Non-compliance may be anonymously reported via the SLU Integrity Hotline at 1-

877-525-5669 (or confidentially via the Integrity Hotline's website at <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/sl>).

Additional Policies/FAQs

How should a student report an absence?

If you must miss class, please contact your instructor by e-mail to inform them of your absence. Notification should be provided at least one hour before class, if possible.

How can a student who is unable to be present in class participate in class remotely?

Students who are unable to physically attend class but are well enough to participate remotely are expected to do so. If you are a student registered to take the class in-person but need to participate in class remotely, notify your course instructor or teaching assistant by e-mail at least **3 hours** before class begins. This class is being live-streamed on Zoom; the Zoom link is available on the course home page in Blackboard.

What happens if the course instructor is ill or quarantined?

If your course instructor has to quarantine but is well enough to teach, students will be notified by the instructor via email, and class will meet remotely on Zoom at the regularly scheduled time. The Zoom link is available on the course web page in Blackboard. If your course instructor becomes ill and is unable to continue teaching, an alternative instructor will teach the course for as long as necessary.