

Ethics and Policy Studies 712: Seminar in Business and Professional Ethics

Fall 2008 • Thursday 5:30 pm – 8:20 pm (WRI C225)

Course Instructor Dr. Abigail Pfister Aguilar; contact information: office WRI A219 on Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30 and by appointment, phone 895-5244, e-mail aguila26@unlv.nevada.edu.

Course Description Exploration of applied ethics, which combines the study of justice, human rights, corruption, sexism, or racism, etc., with analysis of existing public- and private-sector practices or laws. Environmental, medical/health care, business, journalism, professional, and government ethics may be explored. May be repeated to a maximum of six credits. Prerequisite: Graduate standing.

Course Objective To have students examine ethical claims concerning issues in business and the professions, to identify and challenge the assumptions of arguments made, to demonstrate the value of a healthy skepticism, to evaluate ethical arguments in terms of logical consistency, validity, and cogency, and to apply ethical theories and their ideas to specific ethical dilemmas in business and the professions.

Required Texts (1) John Rowan and Samuel Zinaich, Jr., *Ethics for the Professions*, Thomson Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2003. (2) Abigail Aguilar, *Selected Readings in Ethical Theories*, Thomson, 2007.

Formal Requirements The course will be organized as follows:

- *10%*: attendance and participation throughout the semester. Students will be expected to have read and be prepared to discuss all of the material assigned for each class meeting.
- *60% total, 30% each*: two 10-12 page papers, each dealing with a different ethical dilemma in business or the professions. Directions will be distributed the first class meeting, and the papers will be due on Thursday, October 23rd, and Thursday, November 20th.
- *20% total, 10% each*: two 2-3 page synopses, one for each of the papers; these will be used to prepare everyone in class for the presentations (on December 11th). Directions will be distributed the first class meeting, and both synopses will be due on Thursday, December 4th.
- *10%*: short presentation on the dilemma papers, to be done on Thursday, December 11th (all scheduled between 6pm and 8pm).

Academic Misconduct Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism: "Using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources." See the "Student Academic Misconduct Policy" (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/judicial/miconductPolicy.html>.

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Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan.

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Rebelmail

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Class Schedule

The following schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Unless revised in class, reading assignments are given for the date for which they must be read. *EP* will refer to *Ethics for the Professions*, and *SRET* to *Selected Readings in Ethical Theories*.

Week 1

August 28 Introduction to Course; *EP*, Introduction; and *SRET*: Mill, *On Liberty*

Week 2

September 4 *SRET*: Aristotle; optional *EP*, Chapter 1: Moral Theories, IV. Virtue Ethics (pp. 41-45)

Week 3

September 11 *SRET*: Kant; optional *EP*, Chapter 1, II. Deontological Ethics (pp. 22-35)

Week 4

September 18 *SRET*: Mill, *Utilitarianism*; optional *EP*, Chapter 1, I. Utilitarian Ethics (pp. 12-21)

Week 5

September 25 *SRET*: Locke

Week 6

October 2 *EP*, Chapter 2: Perspectives on Professional Ethics

Week 7

October 9 *EP*, Chapter 3: Employee Rights

Week 8

October 16 *EP*, Chapter 4: Professional-Client Relations

Week 9

October 23 **FIRST PAPER DUE;** *EP*, Chapter 5: Business and the Professions

Week 10

October 30 *EP*, Chapter 6: Engineering

Week 11

November 6 *EP*, Chapter 8: Counseling

Week 12

November 13 *EP*, Chapter 9: Law

Week 13

November 20 **SECOND PAPER DUE;** *EP*, Chapter 10: Journalism

Week 14

November 27 **THANKSGIVING RECESS**

Week 15

December 4 **BOTH SYNOPSES DUE;** *EP*, Chapter 11: Education

FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK: Presentations

Thursday, December 11 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm