

Ethics and Policy Studies 702-- Ethics  
Mon 5:30-8:20 pm  
Wright C321

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office hours: Mon 1-2 pm and Wed 12-2 and by appointment.

Course Description: The course focuses on important philosophic works concerning ethics or morality. It inquires into the ethics of both the individual and of the community, exploring what ethics is, how we recognize it, and what role it should play in our lives.

Learning Objectives: Students will improve their ability to read, discuss, and write about important and challenging works of political philosophy. They will also learn about ethics and its relation to politics and education.

Format: The course is a seminar in which we read and discuss the texts based on our close reading of the original material. Careful reading and discussion is crucial for the papers in the course.

Readings:

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Crisp trans. Cambridge.

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Penguin.

Kant, Immanuel. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Gregor trans. Cambridge.

Additional secondary readings:

Berns, Laurence. "Hobbes" in *History of Political Philosophy*. Univ. of Chicago Press.

Collins, Susan. "Moral Virtue and the Limits of the Political Community in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*" *American Journal of Political Science*. Volume 48 Issue 1, Pages 47 - 61

Deitz, Mary. *Thomas Hobbes and Political Theory*. Univ. of Kansas Press.

Oakeshott, Michael. "Introduction to *Leviathan*" in *Rationalism in Politics*. Liberty.

Salkever, Stephen. *Finding the Mean*. Princeton University Press.

Shell, Susan. *The Rights of Reason: A Study of Kant's Philosophy and Politics*.  
Univ. Toronto Press.

Tessitore, Aristide. *Reading Aristotle's Ethics*. SUNY Press.

Requirements:

Two 7-8 page essays (1750-2000 words) worth 35% each and a take home final worth 30%.

## Reading Schedule

Aug. 24	Introduction
Aug. 31	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> I & II
Sept 7	Labor Day
Sept 14	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> III and IV
Sept 21	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> V
Sept 28	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> VI (Paper due)
Oct. 5	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> VII
Oct 12	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> VIII and IX
Oct 19	Aristotle <i>Ethics</i> X
Oct 26	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> Letter, Introduction, 1-13
Nov 2	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> 14-17 (Paper due)
Nov 9	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> 18-21, 29, 30
Nov 16	Hobbes <i>Leviathan</i> 31-34, 43, 46, 47, Conclusion
Nov 23	Kant <i>Groundwork</i> Preface, Parts I-II
Nov 30	Kant <i>Groundwork</i> Part II continued

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