

Ethics and Policy Studies 740: Seminar in Organizational and Public Morality

Fall 2009 • Thursday 5:30 pm – 8:20 pm (WRI C225)

Course Instructor: Dr. Abigail Pfister Aguilar; contact information: office WRI A222 on Thursdays 4:00 – 5:30 and by appointment, phone 895-5246, e-mail aguila26@unlv.nevada.edu.

Course Description: How organizational practices and policies produce moral consequences. What kinds of organizational responsibility belong to these practices, and how the person working in an organization maintains, balances, or loses moral integrity in such circumstances. Case studies from business, government, professions and community organizations. Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

Course Objective: To have students examine moral aspects of organizations and professions with an emphasis on moral integrity, to identify and challenge the assumptions of arguments made, to demonstrate the value of a healthy skepticism, to evaluate ethical arguments, and to apply ethical theories and their ideas to potential challenges to moral integrity in organizations and professions.

Required Texts: (1) Abigail Aguilar, *Selected Readings in Ethical Theories*, Thomson, 2007. (2) Robert Solomon, *A Better Way to Think About Business*, Oxford University Press, 1999. (3) Stephen L. Carter, *Integrity*, HarperPerennial, 1996. (4) J. Patrick Dobel, *Public Integrity*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999. (5) Craig E. Johnson, *Ethics in the Workplace*, SAGE Publications, 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 for research paper; 20% for the rough draft, 40% for the final draft:** one research paper dealing with challenges to integrity in a particular type of organization or profession. Directions will be distributed the first class meeting and will be available afterward on WebCampus. The 8-page (minimum) rough draft will be due on Thursday, October 15th, and the 20-page final draft will be due on Thursday, November 19th.
- **15%:** 5-page synopsis, due Thursday, December 3rd; this will be used to prepare everyone in class for the presentations (on December 10th). Directions will be distributed the first class meeting and will be available afterward on WebCampus.
- **15%:** short presentation on the final paper, to be done on Thursday, December 10th (10 minutes maximum, all scheduled between 6pm and 8pm). Directions will be distributed the first class meeting and will be available afterward on WebCampus.

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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UNLV Writing Center: One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance.

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.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

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Rebelmail: By policy, faculty and staff should only e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways student receive official university communication. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after admission to the university. Non-admitted students should contact the Student Help Desk at (702) 895-0761, in the Student Union Room 231, or by e-mail: studenthelp@unlv.edu. See <http://rebelmail.unlv.edu/> for information.

Class Schedule: The following schedule is tentative and subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Unless revised in class or on WebCampus, reading assignments are given for the date for which they must be read.

Week 1, August 27	Introduction to Course; <i>Selected Readings:</i> Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>
Week 2, September 3	<i>Selected Readings in Ethical Theories:</i> Aristotle
Week 3, September 10	<i>Selected Readings in Ethical Theories:</i> Kant
Week 4, September 17	<i>Selected Readings in Ethical Theories:</i> Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>
Week 5, September 24	<i>Selected Readings in Ethical Theories:</i> Locke
Week 6, October 1	Solomon, <i>A Better Way to Think About Business</i>
Week 7, October 8	Carter, <i>Integrity</i> , Chapters 1-7
Week 8, October 15	ROUGH DRAFT DUE; Carter, <i>Integrity</i> , Chapters 8-14
Week 9, October 22	Dobel, <i>Public Integrity</i> , Preface and Chapters 1-3
Week 10, October 29	Dobel, <i>Public Integrity</i> , Chapters 4-7
Week 11, November 5	Dobel, <i>Public Integrity</i> , Chapters 8-10
Week 12, November 12	Johnson, <i>Ethics in the Workplace</i> , Introduction and Parts I-II
Week 13, November 19	FINAL DRAFT DUE; Johnson, <i>Ethics in Workplace</i> , Parts III-IV
November 26	THANKSGIVING RECESS (NO CLASS)
Week 14, December 3	SYNOPSIS DUE; Johnson, <i>Ethics in the Workplace</i> , Part V
FINAL EXAMINATION WEEK, Thursday, December 10, 6:00-8:00pm Presentations	