

Prey

## Syllabus

Religious Studies 338 Religion, Philosophy, and Social Ethics  
Chaminade University of Honolulu Camp Smith  
Winter Evening 1998 Tuesday, 17:30-21:40

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### Catalog Description

Designed to give students an interdisciplinary experience in the study of social ethics from the perspectives of theology, religion, and philosophy. Students will explore the theory and practice of social ethics and develop the knowledge and skills for philosophical and theological critique of ethical systems and social policy. Cross-listed as SO 338.

We will survey ethical and political theory, attempt to uncover the fundamental assumptions of various approaches to public policy, come up with ways of evaluating ethical arguments for (and against) social policy, and finally apply these to current issues.

Required Text: *Democracy on Trial*, Jean Bethke Elstain.

Additional materials to be distributed in class.

Access to the Internet nearly essential. Students are encouraged to activate a CUH account in the Computer Lab in Henry Hall.

### Course Requirements and Criteria for Grading:

Grades will be based on class participation (discussions and pop quizzes), a take-home mid-term exam, and a final paper or class presentation.

Social ethics require that all students contribute to the common project of learning, so everyone must keep up on readings, participate in class discussions by offering their opinions and insight, and maintain the process itself by creating an environment of mutual respect and engagement. Mid-term exam will be short essay format. Papers/presentations should deal with a particular issue of social policy, and be cleared with the instructor *early* in the term.

Attendance is mandatory, and will be recorded.

### Schedule (subject to revision)

Jan. 13

Personal and Social Ethics. Religious and Philosophical grounds of ethical systems.

Jan. 20

Politics: public/private, citizen and state, liberalism vs. communitarianism.

\*Last day to add/drop/change classes.

Jan. 27

Civil Society: What's in it for me?

Feb. 3

Distributive Justice. Economic Democracy?

Feb. 10

Criminal Justice: Security and the Quality of Mercy  
Mid-term exam distributed

Feb. 17

Human rights: Mid-term exam due.

Feb. 24

Politics of Identity:

Mar. 3

Tragedy: Antigone, Civil Disobedience, Nuremberg.  
\*Last day to withdraw from classes.

Mar. 10

The Tunnel at the end of the Light: New Dark Ages?

Mar. 17

Cheap Talk: Discourse Ethics and Democracy

Mar. 24

Class presentations/ papers due.