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Chaminade University of Honolulu

**Religion, Philosophy, and Social Ethics**

Religious Studies 338\0

Schofield Barracks Fall 1999

Fridays 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.

**Course Objectives:**

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.

**Course Requirements:**

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. There will be a number of short, in-class writing assignments on topics currently under discussion. Students will select an issue of interest and write a final paper of approximately ten (10) pages, typewritten and in proper academic style, with a proposal and rough draft due as assigned. An optional short presentation of the paper can be made on the last day of class.

**Required Text:**

*Thirteen Questions in Ethics and Social Philosophy*, Bowie, Higgins, and Michaels, eds.

**Grading criteria:**

Grades will be based on class participation (30%), in-class writing (15%), and the final paper (55%). Students who miss more than one session can expect to have their final grade negatively impacted.

Time Table: Readings to be assigned.	November 12 Human Rights
October 8: Introductions, Ethical theory, Social ethics, Religion and Philosophy	Rough draft of paper due.
October 15 Individual Identity	November 19 The Problem of Violence
October 22 Family Values	November 26 Environmental Ethics
Paper topic proposals due.	December 3 It's the Economy, !
October 29 Truth	December 10: Dying: Last Class
November 5 Discrimination	Final paper due.