

RE/SO 338²⁰, RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL ETHICS

Dr. Usha K. Prasad

Class Meetings: June 15, 17, 21, 23, 25, 28, 30 and Jul 2, 1730-2140;

June 19 and 26, 8-12

Kaneohe MCB

TEXT: May, L. Collins-Chobanian, S., Wong, K., eds., Applied Ethics: A Multicultural Approach, 2nd ed., 1988, NJ: Prentice Hall.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Ethical problems and issues are both personal and social concerns. This course is designed to provide students with interdisciplinary conceptual frameworks to understand social ethics from the perspectives of religion, philosophy and sociology. Students will explore and critically analyze contemporary ethical issues from a cross-cultural perspective. A multicultural approach will be applied to the study and examination of ethical systems and related social policies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- to survey case studies on ethical issues.
- to critically review the affect of religion on cultural and social change.
- to understand and apply different approaches in studying the issues of social ethics.
- to analyze factors related to problems and issues in social ethics.
- to examine various alternatives and possibilities in creating ethical social policies.

CLASS FORMAT:

This is an interactive course, and is centered around classroom discussions and readings. The format integrates lectures, small group discussions, student presentations, role plays and debates. Students are encouraged and expected to actively participate in class activities.

REQUIREMENTS:

Each student is expected to carefully read the assigned textbook chapter and be prepared to participate in discussions during class. Students are asked to be open minded about ideas/viewpoints being expressed, and as well, to participate regularly in class activities. All students are expected to (a) extend courtesy and professionalism to others during class discussions, (e.g. take turns in speaking, allow others to express their ideas without interruption, communicate with positive, constructive verbal and non-verbal language), and (b) show respect towards differing points of views (e.g. refrain from making judgements.)

Only registered students are allowed in this class.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are responsible for reading all assignments from the textbook; a schedule of reading assignments is attached. In addition, each student will prepare a chapter report (based on individually selected/assigned readings of a chapter in the textbook). The chapter report entails:

- 1) the student taking a lead role in the class discussion on the day of his/her assigned chapter;
- 2) presenting 3 analytical questions for class discussion; and
- 3) preparing a 1-2 page (typed, double-spaced) summary of his/her chapter report; this written report needs to emphasize the three main points from the chapter, and the 3 questions posed for class discussion.

CLASS PROJECT:

The purpose of the class project is for students to creatively apply knowledge from the classroom to real life experience. Students may choose to work on one of two following projects:

1. Conduct a survey of people on a particular issue of social ethics. Students are required to use a conceptual framework to analyze the findings. This survey may include interviewing and may be supplemented by information gathered through documentary research.

The length of the written report should be between 5 and 7 pages (typed, double-spaced), and include a bibliography.

2. To participate in the Service Learning Program at Chaminade. Students may volunteer their time (at least 10 hours) to work for a non-profit organization that would provide them with an opportunity to learn about social policies that reflect and affect the livelihood of people in society. Students are required to analyze this experience by applying a conceptual framework learned from this course.

The length of the written report should be between 3-4 pages (typed, double-spaced).

Plagiarized work will lead to automatic failure of the course!

CLASS PRESENTATIONS:

Each student will make a 10 minute oral presentation of his/her project to the class; this will most likely take place on the final 2 days of the course. The oral report should be a brief summary of the student's written report. Reading from the written report itself is strongly discouraged. The grade will be based on the effectiveness of communicating the project in a clear and concise manner, while maintaining the presentation within the 10 minute time limit.

REFLECTION JOURNAL:

Each student is required to select 3 specific topics of interest and write a reflection on each of these topics in a journal. The journal must be typed, double-spaced; it will consist of an entry being made three times for each of the three topical areas. It is to be completed and turned in on the day specified in the syllabus class schedule. Each entry will be graded for its brief insightful information and also for fulfilling the contents requirement. The contents of each should include:

1. Reflective understanding of the chosen topic(s);
2. Insightful comment on the topic(s); and
3. 1-2 analytical question(s) about each topic.

GRADING:

All students will be graded for:

- knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class lectures, discussions, videos, resources cited from research, and coursework performed outside of the class.
- ability to provide relevant examples to support views and ideas.
- ability to apply the knowledge to better understanding the ethical concerns current in society.
- logical and clear presentation of ideas.
- demonstration of having an objective understanding of the subject.
- demonstration of achieving the objectives of this course.
- ability to analyze, critically review, and compare the issues cross-culturally.

Grading will be based on the following:

1. Class attendance	10 pts.
2. Class participation (chapter presentation of main points)	15 pts.
3. Class Project written report (due on the day of the Oral Presentation, 7/2/99)	20 pts.
4. Oral presentation of class project	10 pts.
5. Reflection journal (on three selected topics discussed in class)	15 pts.
6. Mid-term take-home Exam	30 pts.
	Total 100 pts

(100-90=A 89-80=B 79-70=C 69-60=D 59 and below = F)

Students must turn in all class assignments and the exam on their due date. Points will be taken off for late assignments. All written assignments must be typed, and double-spaced.

Only printed/typed copies of written assignments will be accepted; E-mail/fax copies of any course assignment will not be accepted.

SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Required Reading(s)</u>
6-15	Orientation and Introduction: Review of syllabus and requirements for course.	
6-17	Human Rights - Environmental Ethics	pp. 25-180
6-19	Hunger and Poverty War and Violence Journal #1 due	pp. 181-262 pp. 263-326
6-21	Gender Roles and Morality	pp. 327-394
6-23	Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Distribution of Mid-term Take Home Exam Questions	pp. 395-456
6-25	Individual work on Class Project	
6-26	The AIDS Epidemic MID TERM EXAM DUE	pp. 457-530
6-28	Abortion Journal #2 due	pp. 531-584
6-30	Euthanasia and Sustaining Life Journal #3 due	pp. 585-651
7-02	Class Presentations Class Project Report due	

Videos will be announced in class.