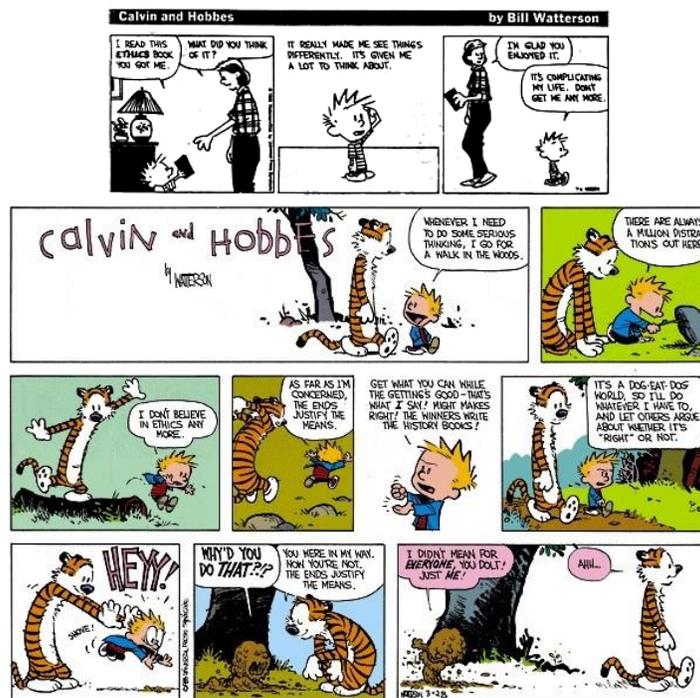


POLS 2010
Ethics and Politics
Fall 2022
MWF 12:00-12:50
Professor Chris Duncan, Ph.D.

Instructor: Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.
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Phone: 314-977-9862
Class Meets: McGannon Hall 121



Course Objectives

This course challenges students to explore the relationship between moral values and political choices. Focusing on contemporary political issues, problems, and policies, we examine how different political philosophies, including Catholic social justice principles, provide different frameworks for judging the consequences of our political choices.

All political and policy questions presuppose a normative framework. Often this framework is simply assumed without explication. In doing so, policy makers and students alike neglect to account for and examine rigorously and critically the preconceived ethical and moral foundations

upon which they base their work and study. This course is designed to accomplish two broad tasks. First, to acquaint the student of politics in a systematic manner with the rudiments of various schools of thought concerning moral theory and the larger questions that have emerged from said theory. Second, to demonstrate through various case studies and issue areas how those models have been, and could be, applied to political debates, constitutional questions, law, and policy choices.

Once these goals are accomplished, the hope is that those engaged in the study of politics will have a significantly more comprehensive view of the philosophic process, and that they will be better situated to assess outcomes in a deeper and more systematic manner.

The learning goals for the course include:

1. Students will be able to identify and apply a number of well-established ethical frameworks and bodies of thought to social and political issues and questions.
2. Students will be able to contrast those frameworks with each other so as to see how different approaches might yield different outcomes or conclusions.
3. Students will become more reflective about their own ethical commitments and patterns of thought.
4. Students will come to certain conclusions about difficult political positions and issues and be able to articulate their positions and the rationale for them in well-reasoned ways.

Course Attributes:

Global Local Justice-Elective, Social Science Requirement (A&S), Urban Poverty - Social Justice, Diversity in the US (A&S)

Required Texts*

1. *Ethics: The Fundamentals* by Julia Driver
2. *Social Ethics: Morality and Social Policy* by Thomas Mappes, Jane Zembaty, and David DeGrazia

*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

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|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| (10) Quizzes | 100 points (10 points each)* |
| (1) Mid-term Examination | 150 points |
| (1) Final Examination | <u>150 points</u> |
| | 400 points total |

Grade Scale in Points

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|------------|----|
| 400-368= | A |
| 367-360= | A- |
| 359-348= | B+ |
| 347-328= | B |
| 327-320= | B- |
| 319-312= | C+ |
| 311-288= | C |
| 387-280= | C- |
| 279-220= | D |
| Below 220= | F |

Examinations and Quizzes

Quizzes will be administered through the course's Canvas site. They will open and close at specific times and will be multiple choice/true and false.

The Mid-term Exam and the Final Exam will be comprised of both timed online components (multiple choice/true-false) and integrative essay and short answer questions.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

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| September 5 | No Class (Labor Day) |
| September 28 | No Class (University Break) |
| October 28 | No Class (Fall Break) |

Course Outline

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| August 24 | Introduction to Course and American Politics Review - No Readings |
| August 26 | American Political Culture - No Readings |
| August 29 | The Question of Relativism - <i>Ethics</i> : Introduction and Chapter 1 |
| August 31-Sept. 2 | Natural Law and the God Question - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 2 |
| September 2 | Quiz #1 |
| September 7-9 | Utilitarianism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 3 |
| September 12-14 | Contemporary Consequentialism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 4 |
| September 14 | Quiz #2 |
| September 16-19 | Kant and Deontology - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 5 |
| September 21-23 | Social Contract Theory - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 6 |
| September 23 | Quiz #3 |
| September 26 | Common Sense and Intuitionism - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 7 |

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| Sept. 30-Oct. 3 | Virtue Ethics - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 |
| October 3 | Quiz #4 |
| October 5-7 | Feminism and the Ethics of Care - <i>Ethics</i> : Chapter 9 |
| October 8 | Midterm Examination Opened |
| October 10-14 | Abortion - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 1 |
| October 15 | Midterm Examination Closed |
| October 17-21 | Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 2 |
| October 21 | Quiz #5 |
| October 24-31 | The Death Penalty - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 3 |
| October 31 | Quiz #6 |
| November 2-7 | Pornography, Hate Speech and Censorship - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 5 |
| November 7 | Quiz #7 |
| November 9-14 | Terrorism, Human Rights, and Torture - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 7 |
| November 14 | Quiz #8 |
| November 16-28 | Poverty and Economic Justice - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 8 |
| November 28 | Quiz # 9 |

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|----------------------|--|
| Nov. 30-Dec.7 | Environmental Ethics and Climate Change - <i>Social Ethics</i> : Chapter 10 |
| December 9 | Closing Thoughts |
| December 9 | Quiz #10 |
| December 10 | Final Examination Opened |
| December 17 | Final Examination Closed |

Academic Integrity and Honor Code

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is “the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at Disability_services@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services and within the instructor’s official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Student Success Center:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student

success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about: Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor. University-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Discrimination Policy:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (DuBourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp> To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory any student with more than **3** unexcused absences automatically has their total points reduced by **10 points**. All subsequent unexcused absences reduce the grade by **5 points** each time. If for some reason the nature of the student's illness or other events outside of their control prevents the student from participating as required they should contact the instructor immediately to make alternative arrangements for fulfilling the course requirements.

Mandatory Syllabus Statement on Face Masks (until further notice)

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, key safeguards like face masks have allowed SLU to safely maintain in-person learning. If public health conditions and local, state, and federal restrictions demand it, the University may require that all members of our campus community wear face masks indoors.

Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class. This expectation will apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect, the following will apply:

- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.
- Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.
- Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University-wide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:
 - dismissal from the course(s)
 - removal from campus housing (if applicable)
 - dismissal from the University
- To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a University-wide face mask requirement.

When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [ADA Policy](#). Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the [Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity](#). Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

Mandatory Syllabus Statement on In-Person Class Attendance and Participation (until further notice)

The health and well-being of SLU's students, staff, and faculty are critical concerns, as is the quality of our learning environments. Accordingly, the following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any [potential COVID-19 symptoms](#) (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the [University Student Health Center](#) for immediate assistance.
2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID-19 symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.
3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with the instructor to complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on their health situation.
4. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a student's ability to attend and/or participate in class for an extended period of time.
5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, shall be considered "Authorized" absences.