

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS ENTIRE SYLLABUS.

Course Number: PA 588.01 Course Title: Ethics in Government

Term: Fall Semester 2007 Location of Class Meetings: *The University Center*

Class Meeting Times: *Fridays, 6:00 p.m. - 8:50 p.m.*

Professor: Robin Marshall Bittick, M.P.A., Ph.D. Office: AB1 319G

Contact Information: E-mail: rmb004@shsu.edu Phone: 936-294-4105

Office Hours: I do not have office hours scheduled at The University Center (TUC), but I am willing to meet with students after class, or before class at TUC by appointment. Also, my office hours at the SHSU main campus are: M-W-F, 10:00 am - 11:00 a.m. (walk-in).

Class Website: Go to Blackboard <http://www.shsu.edu/blackboard_login.html>. Students are required to access this website before each class.

Course Description: the following is from the SHSU University Catalog:

PA 588 ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT. This course provides a review of classical and contemporary literature on the role and practice of ethics in public administration. Contemporary empirical research, case studies, and ethical problem solving are also addressed. A primary theme of the course will be fostering and applying "right action" and "good conduct" in public organizations and public policy making.

Prerequisites: Graduate Standing. **Credit Hours:** 3.

Introduction: Welcome to PA 588! This course is designed to explore and evaluate select schools of thought that have contributed to the foundation of ethics in government. In this course we will critically exam ethical approaches to social, political, and administrative problems faced by public administrators and elected officials today. The goal of the course is to equip you with the knowledge, understanding, and ability to make intelligent, ethical decisions on the job.

Class time is divided between a lecture and class discussions, often applying the subject school of thought to a case study or current public issue. My lectures are designed to supplement the reading material. Therefore, you must first read the assigned material prior to class, and then you must attend class.

I want everyone to be successful and pass this course. Therefore, you must be a PROACTIVE student by taking responsibility for researching the subject matter and taking the actions necessary to *master* the material (this is why you are in a "Masters" degree program). This may involve you doing more research beyond the assigned reading material.

Don't panic if you have not previously read the works of the authors we study in class. This is not a philosophy class. Rather, it is a course in political science where we approach philosophical texts from the viewpoint of politics and public administration.

In fact, many of these authors worked as public administrators sometime during their life (e.g. Machiavelli, Locke, etc.).

Course Goals:

With the above in mind, there are three goals for students in this class:

1. **Schools of Thought:** understand the basic fundamentals of the ethical schools of thought as they apply to politics, policy, and administration;
2. **Issues:** recognize ethical issues in social, political, or administrative contexts;
3. **Action:** be able to perform an ethical evaluation of a problem and make an intelligent decision for an appropriate course of action to resolve the issue.

Course Objectives. At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **Knowledge**
 - Understand the foundational ideas of each author/school of thought concerning human nature.
 - Recognize the fundamental principles of each author/school of thought concerning the relationships between humans, including social/political associations, human organization etc.
 - Identify each author's/school of thought's concept of the relationship of humans to the physical-biological realm.
⇒ **Assessment:** "Five Rules" memos, Class Discussions, In-Class Case Studies, Final Exam.
- **Competencies & Related Skills.**
 - Recognize and explain an ethical issue under discussion;
 - Identify and weigh the pros and cons of the ideas of each author/school of thought in regards to resolving an ethical issue, including recognizing logical fallacies, distinguishing between facts and inferences, infer the unstated assumption.
 - Judge the adequacy to which each author supports his conclusions in comparison with other authors and schools of thought;
 - Integrate and synthesize viewpoints of different authors/schools of thought in evaluating the ethical issue;
 - Recommend improvements to each author/school of thought concerning an ethical issue.
⇒ **Assessment:** Class Paper, "Five Rules" memos, Class discussions, and In-Class Case Studies.
- **Values** - at the completion of this course, students will be able to:
 - Appreciate different ethical schools of thought;
 - Understand the benefit of examining multiple authors and ethical schools of thought in order to understand different aspects of an ethical issue;
 - Be committed to a spirit of tolerance concerning differing viewpoints;
 - Appreciate democratic values and norms.
⇒ **Assessment:** Class Paper, "Five Rules" memos, and Class discussions.

Required Textbooks: the following texts are required for this class:

- Hannah Arendt, *Totalitarianism*, Harvest Books. ISBN-10: 0156906503; ISBN-13: 978-0156906500.
- Dean Geuras and Charles Garofalo, *Practical Ethics in Public Administration*, second edition, Management Concepts. ISBN: 1-56726-161-2.
- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*, Harper Perennial. ISBN: 0061311596.
- C S Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, HarperCollins. ISBN: 0-06-065294-2.
- John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration*, Yale University Press. ISBN: 0-300-10018-3.
- Plato, *The Republic*, 2nd edition, Penguin Books. ISBN-10: 0140449140; ISBN-13: 978-0140449143.

Other required reading material will be available to download from the class website (i.e. Blackboard), and includes:

- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics* and *The Politics* - selections only.
- Jeremy Bentham. 1996. "Principles of Morals and Legislation," *The Works of Jeremy Bentham* (1838-1843), edited by John Bowring, chapters 1-4.
- R. M. Bittick. 2002. "Disposable Public Servants," *PATimes*, June, vol. 25, no. 6.
- R. M. Bittick. 2007. "C S Lewis & Government Ethics: Unintended Mingling of Ethical Schools of Thought." Southern Political Science Association, 2007 Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 03-07.
- James R. Heichelbech, "Equality and Hierarchy: Struggling with Plato's Legacy," *PATimes*, March 2002, page 3.
- Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*.
- John Stuart Mill. *Utilitarianism*, 2nd edition, Hackett Publishing Company.
- Friedrich Nietzsche. "Prologue." *Thus Spake Zarathustra*, translated by Thomas Common. - selections only.
- Plato. 1987. *The Laws* - selections only.

Optional Text:

Hacker, Diana. *A Pocket Style Manual*, Fourth Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's.

NOTE: There may be other material assigned for reading throughout the semester that will be linked to the class website.

Optional References: I also encourage students to join [American Society of Public Administration](#) (ASPA) and ASPA's [Section on Ethics](#), and read [Ethics Today](#) and the journal [Public Integrity](#). Both are publications of the [Section on Ethics](#).

- **Attendance Policy.** *Class attendance and participation are mandatory.* Students are allowed one (1) unexcused absence without penalty. Students are subject to

having 35 points deducted from their final grade if they miss more than one class session (unexcused). If you cannot attend class on a regular basis, you need to drop the course and take it again in a future semester.

- **Assigned Readings.** These are listed on the schedule (below). Since this course covers a lot of reading material, you must plan ahead to schedule your reading time appropriately.
- **Exam.** A final exam is required. This is a take-home exam formatted much like the MPA exams (i.e. essay). The exam is due in class at the beginning of the final class meeting during finals week.
- **Assignments:**
 - **One (1) "Issue" Memo.** The instructions for this memo will be linked on the course website. The memo identifies an ethical issue that the student will analyze throughout the semester.
 - **Five (5) "Important Rules" Memos.** The instructions will be linked on the course website. Six memos will be assigned, only five are required (i.e. you may skip or drop one out of the six memos).
 - **One (1) Class Paper.** The instructions for this paper will be linked on the main course website. This requires a written analysis of an ethical issue identified in the "Issue" memo according to the guidelines provided in the Instructions.
 - **Two (2) In-Class Case Studies.** See the course *Schedule* for the scheduled dates. You must attend class for the entire class period and participate in the assignment to receive credit.

Late Assignments: the due dates for assignments are set at the times specified in order for the student to gain maximum learning benefit. **If you are unable to complete an assignment on time, you must contact me in advance and explain your reason.** With my approval, an assignment's due date can be rescheduled.

Grading Plan:

<u>Required Assignments</u>	<u>Points Possible</u>
Exam	100
"Issue" Memo	30
5 "Important Rules" Memos @ 20 points each	100
Class Paper	100
<u>2 In-Class Case Studies@ 10 points each</u>	<u>20</u>
Total Possible Points:	350
Subtract 35 points for Attendance	?

Points based on the grade earned for each completed assignment and exam are based on my evaluation of your work. The percentage scale for the final grade follows:

Percentage of Total Points Earned	Final Grade
90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
59% and Below	F

All university rules and procedures apply to this class.

Academic Honesty: Students are required to read *Academic Policy Statement 810213* found at <http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>.

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

The Instructor reserves the right to require any or all students to submit written work on electronic media (e.g. Word or Word Perfect) so it may be checked using a plagiarism software program.

Americans with Disabilities Act: See *Academic Policy Statement 811006* at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/811006.pdf. Requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. Students seeking accommodations must go tot the Counseling Center for certification of the disability in a timely manner.

Student Absences on Religious Holy Days: See *Academic Policy Statement 861001* at http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pdf.

Instructor Evaluations: students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form toward the end of the semester.

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students must read this policy at <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>. Students must turn off or silence their cell phones once class begins. Students shall not engage in phone conversations or text messaging during class.

Schedule: The schedule will follow; below is an outline of the course.

PA 588 Ethics in Government - Course Outline - Fall 2007 - R M Bittick, PhD

<u>Topic/Readings</u>
Foundational Ideas in Ethics. □ Handout; R M Bittick, "Disposable Public Servants," <i>PATimes</i> , June 2002.
Ethics - Schools of Thought. □ Handout; □ Geuras & Garofalo, chs. 1 - 3, pages xi through 59.
Organizational Theory: Hierarchy and Elites. □ Handout; □ Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , and <i>The Laws</i> (excerpts); □ James Heichelbech, "Equality and Hierarchy: Struggling with Plato's Legacy," <i>PATimes</i> , March 2002.
Organizational Theory: Virtue and Decision-Makers. □ Handout; □ Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (excerpts - linked) and □ Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> (excerpts - linked).
Civil Society. □ Handout; □ Locke, <i>Second Treatise on Government</i> (selections), and <i>Letter Concerning Toleration</i> .
Principle Based Ethics - Deontology. □ Handout; □ Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals</i> .
Ethics as Consequences - Utilitarianism. □ Handout; □ Bentham, <i>Principles of Morals and legislation</i> (selections); □ Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> .
Unified Ethical Theory. □ Handout; □ Geuras & Garofalo, chs. 3 - 5 from page 60 through page 123.
Political Power and Leadership. □ Handout; □ Machiavelli's <i>The Prince</i> (linked); □ Geuras & Garofalo, ch. 11.
Future of Politics and Public Administration. □ Handout; □ Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> (Prologue - download); □ Arendt, <i>Totalitarianism</i> . □ C S Lewis, <i>The Abolition of Man</i> . □ R M Bittick, "C. S. Lewis & Government Ethics: Unintended Mingling of Opposing Ethical Schools of Thought," 2007 Conference of the SPSA.