

PHIL 261: Ethics in Practice

Fall 2016, UNC Chapel Hill

TR 9:30 – 10:45 AM, Caldwell 208

Recitation: T 7:00 – 9:00 PM, Caldwell 213

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours: M 1-2 PM, T 11 AM-12 PM

PREREQUISITES

One ethics course and/or instructor approval.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with an opportunity to practice applying moral theories and principles of argument that they learn in their ethics classes in the interactive format of the Ethics Bowl. The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (IEB) combines a competitive tournament with a valuable educational experience. We will receive 15 case studies on September 7th involving ethical issues in practical contexts, including engineering, law, medicine, personal relationships, education, and both domestic and international politics. Specific questions may concern a wide range of ethically salient topics, including but not limited to plagiarism, dating and friendship, gun control, environmental policy, civilian casualties, and globalization.

During the course students will discuss and prepare arguments about several cases. Preparation involves significant research, writing, understanding ethical theories, and oral presentation. The day hours of the class are designed to assist in these tasks. The team sent to the Ethics Bowl competition will be selected from those registered in the course. During recitations students will give presentations in mock Ethics Bowl competitions.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance in class meetings
- Participation in class discussions and practice rounds/mock competitions
- Travel and participation at IEB Regional Competition
 - Date: 11/19/16
 - Location: Clemson University
- Participation in extracurricular demonstration workshops (as needed)

- Presentation at First Amendment Day (Tuesday 9/27/16, time TBA)

WRITING REQUIREMENTS

- Two 700-800 word critiques of practice rounds
- Two 700-800 word briefs of assigned cases
- One 2-4 page writing assignment in lieu of final exam (see below).
 - Research and write two scenarios (1-2 pages each) for the High School Ethics Bowl.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is necessary (but not sufficient) for full participation. If you are not here, you cannot participate, but just as importantly, being here does not by itself mean you are participating. In addition, University policy states that “regular class attendance is a student obligation, and a student is responsible for all the work, including tests and written work, of all class meetings. No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings except for excused absences for authorized University activities or religious observances required by the student’s faith.” If you anticipate you will be absent from a scheduled meeting, you must inform the instructor at least 24 hours in advance. Otherwise, your absence will count as unexcused.

GRADING

- Two critiques (10% each = 20%)
- Two briefs (10% each = 20%)
- Final writing assignment (25%)
- Participation (35%)

COURSE SCHEDULE

8/23	First day of classes; introduction and overview of course
8/25	Introduction to IEB rules and format
8/30	Moral theories
9/1	Moral theories continued; applications to sample cases
9/6-9/8	Moral theories continued; select case for 1 st Amendment Day (preferably from IEB regionals case-list)
9/13-9/15	Discuss 1 st Amendment Day case; select teams for 1 st Amendment Day
9/20-9/22	Practice/prepare for 1 st Amendment Day; sign up for critiques and briefs
9/27	1 st Amendment Day (class presents a mock competition); recitations begin meeting
9/29	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed
10/4-10/6	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed

10/11	University Day (morning class cancelled, recitation will still meet)
10/13	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed
10/18	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed
10/25-10/27	Discussion of cases, etc. (10/25 recitation to be rescheduled)
11/1-11/3	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed
11/8-11/10	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed
11/15-11/17	Discussion of cases; mock competitions; moral theory lectures as needed
11/19	Mid-Atlantic Regional Competition
11/22	Class cancelled
11/24	Thanksgiving recess (no class)
11/29-12/1	Prepare for HSEB
12/6	Prepare for HSEB
12/13	Final Exam period 8-11 AM; papers and HSEB scenarios due.

HIGH SCHOOL ETHICS BOWL SCENARIOS

These are suitable scenarios for use in the High School Ethics Bowl. Details will be posted on Sakai and discussed in class.

HONOR CODE STATEMENT

The [Instrument of Student Judicial Governance](#) states that students have four general responsibilities:

1. Obey and support the enforcement of the Honor Code;
2. Refrain from lying, cheating, or stealing;
3. Conduct themselves so as not to impair significantly the welfare or the educational opportunities of others in the University community; and
4. Refrain from conduct that impairs or may impair the capacity of University and associated personnel to perform their duties, manage resources, protect the safety and welfare of members of the University community, and maintain the integrity of the University.

Plagiarism is described in the Instrument as “deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise.”

The Honor System's ["Honor in the Syllabus" page](#) includes the following suggested “affirmation of the Honor Code”:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has had a student-led honor system for over 100 years. Academic integrity is at the heart of Carolina and we all are responsible for upholding the ideals of honor and integrity. The student-led Honor System is responsible for adjudicating any suspected violations of the Honor Code and all suspected instances of academic dishonesty will

be reported to the honor system. Information, including your responsibilities as a student is outlined in the Instrument of Student Judicial Governance. Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected.