PUAF 650: MORAL DIMENSIONS OF PUBLIC POLICY  
(Normative Analysis)  
Spring 2006: Section 0101

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PUAF 650 (Section 0101)  
- Mondays, 9:15-11:45 a.m.  
- Classroom: VMH 1107  
- Office hours: Van Munching 3111G, Monday, 12-1:30 p.m. and Thursday, 4:15- 5:30 p.m. (and other times by appointment)

I. Aims: The purpose of this course is to (1) introduce the student to key moral and ethical issues that arise with respect to the processes, means, and ends of public policy, and (2) promote the student's ability to engage in ethical argumentation and democratic deliberation about public policies. These goals will be pursued in relation to three parts of the course:

- **Part I: The Ethics of Means:** When, if ever, should public officials, use violence, deception and secrecy, and manipulation to achieve their (government’s) ends?
- **Part II: The Basis of Political Legitimacy:** When do governments merit our allegiance, and when should they be denied it? We will analyze and evaluate Ian Shapiro’s interrogating answers proposed in utilitarian, Marxist, social contract (Rawls), conservative, communitarian, and democratic traditions.
- **Part III: Singer’s Ethics of Globalization:** How should we evaluate Peter Singer’s ethical assessments of the challenges of global warming, trade, military intervention, and humanitarian aid?

The class will be conducted through both lectures and discussions. Students are encouraged to read the assigned texts both before and after class and come to class prepared to discuss the central issues and arguments.
II. Books recommended for purchase (University Book Store, Maryland Book Exchange):
   4. Handouts and items on website

III. Requirements:
   1. **Consistent Attendance and Participation** (tie-breaker):
      You should come to class having carefully read the assigned reading. You should be prepared to summarize the reading's main arguments, raise at least one question of interpretation, identify at least one positive feature, and make at least one criticism of the reading.

   2. **Mid-term Examination** (20% of grade):
      Short and long essay examination over key concepts, issues, and arguments treated in assigned readings and class discussions. You will also be tested on your ability to clarify and argue for your own views on certain issues. Two-hour, in-class, closed-book exam.
      **Date:** Monday, March 27

   3. **Short Paper: OP ED Piece** (20% of grade):
      A short “opinion” essay (op ed. piece) (3-4 double spaced pages) in which the student defends his or her answer to the following questions: “Was the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2002 justified?” If you argue that the war was not justified, what is the least drastic change in the circumstances in Iraq that would justify an invasion? If you argue that the war was justified, what is the least drastic change that would reverse your conclusion? Anticipate and try to answer at least one objection to your argument. (See Gutmann and Thompson, 59-60). **Op Ed Paper due Saturday, February 18 at 9:00 a.m. Please email your paper by (preferably) Word attachment to dcrocker@umd.edu. 12 point Times Roman font; 1 inch margins.**

   4. **Long Paper** (30% of grade):
      10-15 page term paper that does one of the following: (1) interprets and evaluates (some aspect of) a moral theory and/or criticisms made of such a theory, (2) identifies, clarifies, and evaluates from a moral point of view a public policy or proposal, for example, governmental policy with respect to one of the policy issues addressed in the course. **Please email your paper by (preferably) Word attachment to dcrocker@umd.edu. 12 point Times Roman font; 1 inch margins.**
      - Topic proposal (no more than one page) due **9:00 a.m., Sat., April 1**
      - Long Paper (with the option to revise) due **9:00 a.m., April 29**
      - Optional Revision due **9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 13**
      - Long Paper (with no option to revise) due **9:00 a.m., Sat., May 13**
5. Final Examination (30% of grade):

Comprehensive examination over key concepts, issues, and arguments treated in assigned readings and class discussion. Two-thirds of the exam will emphasize material covered since the mid-term while one-third of the exam will focus on materials covered before the mid-term. **Tentative date: 1:30-4:00 p.m., Monday, May 15.**

IV. Course Outline:

**INTRODUCTION**

Week 1 (1/30): Course Aims, Structure, and Requirements. Approaches to Ethics and Public Policy?

**PART I: THE ETHICS OF PROCESS (MEANS)**

Week 2 (2/6): Violence
- Gutmann and Thompson, *EP*: 3-6

Week 3 (2/13): Deception and Secrecy
- Short paper due 9:00 a.m., Saturday, February 18 (email attachment)

Week 4 (2/20): Official Disobedience

Week 5 (2/27): Manipulation
- Gutmann and Thompson, *EP*: 159-60.
- “Lyndon Johnson, Master Manipulator,” *EP*: 169-77
PART II: MORAL FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICS; THE ETHICS OF POLICY (ENDS)

Week 6 (3/6): Utilitarianism: Bentham and Mill
- Shapiro, *MFP*: chapter 2 and 3

Week 7 (3/13): Marxism, Rawls, and Distributive Justice
- Shapiro, *MFP*: chapter 4 and 5

Spring Break: 3/20-3/24

Week 8 (3/27): Mid-term Examination
- Covers reading and discussion through
- Topic proposal for long paper due 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 1

Week 9 (4/3): Conservatism and Communitarianism
- Shapiro, *MFP*: chapter 6

Week 10 (4/10): Democracy
- Shapiro, *MFP*: chapter 7-8

PART III: ETHICS AND GLOBAL ISSUES

Week 11 (4/17): Global Warming
- Singer, *OW*: chapter 2

Week 12 (4/24): Trade and the WTO
- Singer, *OW*: chapter 3
- Long paper (with option to revise) due 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 29

Week 13 (5/1): Intervention, National Sovereignty, and the UN
- Singer, *OW*: chapter 4

Week 14 (5/8): Aid and Global Poverty
- Singer, *OW*: chapter 5-6
- David A. Crocker, “Hunger, Capability, and Agency-oriented Development,” (email
attachment).

5/12: Study Day

Week 15 (5/13-5/19) Final Examination Week
• Optional Revision of Long Paper: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 13.
• Long Paper (with no option to revise) due: 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 13.
• Final Examination, Monday, May 15