Syllabus

PUAF 650 Moral Dimensions of Public Policy
Fall 2013, Wednesdays 9:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.
University of Maryland, School of Public Policy

Professor: Dr. Miguel González Marcos
Office Hours: Wednesdays. 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m or by appointment
Phone and messages: MSPP main office (or cell: 202.374.2374)
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Required texts:
• Ronald Dworkin, Religion without God, 2013.

Recommended Text:
• Amy Gutmann & Dennis Thompson, (eds.) Ethics & Politics: Cases and Comments, 2006.
• Dorothy Jones, Toward a Just World: the Critical Years in the Search for International Justice, 2002.
• David Livingstone Smith, Less Than Human: Why We Demean, Enslave, and Exterminate Others, 2011.
• Ishani Maitra & Mary Kate McGowan, Speech & Harm, Controversies Over Free Speech, 2012.

Summary of Course and Requirements:
This course provides an overview of moral and ethical issues in public policy decision-making and practices. Class discussions will analyze legitimizing procedures for policy decision-making as well as substantive criteria for judging individual and collective conduct and action. Participants are expected to develop and exercise critical analysis of methods and goals, arguments, and deliberations in policy contexts.

20% Short Policy Analysis Memorandum and Essay
During the semester, each participant will write one (2-3 pages) policy analysis memorandum and one essay (2-3 pages). The professor will introduce the specific topic of this memorandum
and of this essay. The policy analysis memorandum and the essay will generally address a current issue or problem related to the topics discussed in the course.

50% Final White Paper
Also, each participant will write a white paper (10 pages). In agreement with the professor, participants will choose a specific topic for their respective papers. Participants will present their respective topic to the class, and are expected to be working on their respective white papers during the semester.

30% Class participation
The course will emphasize dialogue. Participation and previous reading of the assigned texts is therefore paramount to a successful course. Participants are expected to be prepared to summarize the main arguments and problems addressed in the readings and to participate in class discussion with questions and comments. Participants should prepare and introduce at least one question or comment for each class either in class or via email before the class. Each participant will collaborate with the professor in co-presenting at least one topic of the syllabus.

Failure to come to class regularly or being unprepared may result in your receiving a failing grade for the course regardless of your scores on the exams and papers. The professor will indicate to participants when the digital version of the assignments should be submitted. Please send assignments and tasks via email in Word format as follows: Last name, first name, section, and assignment designation. Example: Gonzalez, Miguel, 0301, memorandum 1.

Tentative Schedule of Readings:

September 4: Introduction

September 11: Moral Dimensions of Public Policy: A Theoretical Framework
- Glover, Humanity, chs. 1-7
- Hugh LaFollette, “Theorizing About Ethics.”
- Peter Vallentyne, “Consequentialism”, LaFollette, ed., ch. 1
- David McNaughton and Piers Rawling, “Deontology”, LaFollette, ed. ch. 2
- Rosalind Hursthouse, “Virtue Theory”, LaFollette, ed. ch. 3

September 18: Life and Death
- Brad Hooker, “Rule-Utilitarianism and Euthanasia”, LaFollette, ed. ch. 4
- Tom. L. Beauchamp, “Justifying Physician Deaths”, LaFollette, ed. ch. 5
- J. David Velleman, “Against the Right to Die”, LaFollette ed., ch. 6
September 25: *The Ethics of War*
- Glover, *Humanity*, chs. 8-13
- Joseph Boyle, “Just War and the Military Response to Terrorism.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 64

October 2: *Retributive Justice: Capital Punishment*
- James Rachels, “Punishment and Desert.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 47
- Jeffrey Reiman, “Against the Death Penalty.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 51

October 9: *Distributive Justice: Rawls, Nozick, and Young*
- Robert Nozick, “The Entitlement Theory of Justice.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 53
- Iris Marion Young, “Displacing the Distributive Paradigm.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 54

October 16: *Liberty I: Freedom of Action*
- J.S. Mill, “Freedom of Action.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 28
- Lester Hunt, “On Improving People by Political Means.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 29

*Liberty II: Freedom of Speech*
- J.S. Mill, “Freedom of Thought and Discussion.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 34
- John Arthur, “Sticks and Stones.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 37

October 23: *Collaboration and Corruption/Context, Values, and Human Nature?*

October 30: Presentations of white paper topics.

November 6: *Tribalism, Community, and Nation*
- Glover, *Humanity*, chs. 14-18

November 13: *Global Justice I: World Poverty & Equality*
- Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 56
- Thomas Pogge, “Eradicating Systemic Poverty.” LaFollette, ed. ch. 58
• Ronald Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality*

November 20: *Global Justice II: Individual, Communal, and Institutional Ethics: Human Rights as Common Values and Humanitarian Intervention*

• Glover, *Humanity*, chs. 42, 43, Epilogue

December 4: Conclusion: *More Zoon than Politikon?: Natural and Social Foundations of Morality*

• Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*
• Ronald Dworkin, *Religion without God.*

December 11: Conclusion

December 16-21: Evaluation and Grades