Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi  
PADM 5303.W01 – ONLINE  
Administrative Ethics  
Summer I 2017  
Dr. Dan Jorgensen, Chair, Department of Social Sciences  
Professor of Public Administration  
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Email: daniel.jorgensen@tamucc.edu  
Office Hours: By appointment  

Course Description  
This course an overview of some classical and modern approaches to ethical theory, such as ethical relativism, egoism, utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue theory. Students will first be introduced to basic ethical theory with several examples to illustrate the concepts in each chapter. The class will conclude with students involved in a detailed discussion of topics that are replete within the public sector such as abortion, media ethics, environmental ethics, and the death penalty.  

All information for this course will be distributed via Blackboard and the McGraw Hill Connect Course Web Site: http://connect.mheducation.com/connect/container/launch.htm. It is your responsibility to monitor both sites and your campus e-mail accounts regularly to participate in this course and obtain additional information and instructions.  

Student Learning Outcomes  
By the end of this course, students will be able to:  
1. Discuss the theoretical foundations of ethics  
2. Evaluate the implications for the practice of ethics in modern public administrative practice  
3. Apply ethical decision-making processes through case studies, reflections and discussions.  

MPA Universal Competencies:  
In addition to course content, this course should reinforce the NASPAA MPA Universal Competencies to:  
• Lead and manage in public governance by utilizing different theories and decision tools to identify and analyze management and public sector problems.  
• Articulate and apply a public service perspective to administrative and policy decisions and actions by engaging public service principles that include inclusiveness; shared power and responsibility; public deliberation; accountability; aspiring to do the “right” thing rather than just do things right; respect and appreciation for diverse values and perspectives; wise stewardship of public resources, and an appreciation for lifelong learning.  
• Communicate and interact productively with a diverse and changing workforce and citizenry by effectively communicating issues to a diverse set of stakeholders, in a manner that is accurate, clear, and concise, while also being tailored to varied audiences.  

Required Text:  

Connect Course Web Site:  
http://connect.mheducation.com/connect/container/launch.htm
**Course Requirements:**

1. Participate in all discussion forums in the course.  
   **Percent of final grade:** 30%
2. Participate in at least one Narrative discussion in each chapter  
   **Percent of final grade:** 20%
3. Complete the three Unit Exams  
   **Percent of final grade:** 30%
4. Write your own Narrative using a list of possible works from the instructor or have a work approved by the instructor by June 15th.  
   **Percent of final grade:** 20%

Details for each of the assignments that corresponds to these requirements will be posted online in Blackboard.

**Course Policies:**

**Communicating in an Online Environment:** It is important that students communicate in a professional manner in both the discussions and via e-mail. This class is not a social networking site thus it is expected that proper communications protocols be followed.

First, when writing e-mails please use normal syntax and avoid e-speak. Second, avoid sending controversial e-mails or attacking individuals personally during on line discussions. If you have a difference of opinion please discuss it in a collegial manner and support your opinions with evidence and facts. There is a tendency these days with on line environments to say things in ways one would not say in face-to-face conversation and to use excessively sharp or harsh language. Related to those problems is a tendency to become overly familiar or simply unprofessional. Professionalism and respect are as essential in any online communications as they are anywhere else.

Please be aware that I access Blackboard every weekday. I typically will answer questions and emails within 24 hours during the week, however if emailed after noon on Friday, I may not respond until sometime the following Monday.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Grade Appeals Process:** As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that she or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. (available at [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf))

For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

**Disability Services:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call...
or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**Writing:** If I find your basic writing skills to be substandard I will ask you to seek guidance at the TAMUCC writing center. Please do so promptly. [http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php](http://casa.tamucc.edu/wc.php)

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic integrity is a great concern for me and should be for you! Your work should be your own! When appropriate properly attribute using proper citation and formatting. This is not only my policy it the policy of Texas A & M University, Corpus Christi as noted in the Student Code of Conduct. Students who violate any aspect of the Student Code of Conduct, including cheating or plagiarizing are subject to receiving a zero on the assignment, and being reported to the Department of Student Affairs. If you have questions about how to avoid penalization, PLEASE ASK!

**BlackBoard Issues:** I understand that at times our Blackboard system may be unavailable for technical reasons thus making it difficult to complete some assignments. In these cases, allowances will be made for late assignments. No allowances will be made, however, for technical difficulties on your side of the class. Procrastination on your behalf does not create an emergency on mine. BlackBoard tends to go down when you procrastinate!

**ANY SYLLABUS REVISION IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFFESOR BUT WILL BE PRECEDED BY REASONABLE NOTICE TO THE STUDENTS. CHECK BLACKBOARD, EMAIL AND WITH PEERS OFTEN.**

**Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>Part 1: The Story as a Tool of Ethics -- Opens May 30th – Closes Friday June 2nd at 11:59pm CDT.</td>
<td>The part of the course defines the concepts of ethics, morals, and values and introduces the narrative as one medium through which morals may be taught and discussed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required Readings:</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Thinking About Values</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Learning Moral Lessons from Stories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments:</td>
<td>Participate in all discussion forums in order assigned</td>
<td>Participate in at least one of the Narrative discussions assigned for each chapter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete the Unit Exam</td>
<td>Complete the Unit Exam</td>
</tr>
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Part 2: What Should I Do? Theories of Conduct -- Opens Thursday, June 1 – Closes Thursday June 15th at 11:59pm CDT. In this part of the class we will examine the most influential theories of ethical conduct in Western philosophy.

| Required Readings:            | Chapter 3: Ethical Relativism  |
|                              | Chapter 4: Myself or Others? |
|                              | Chapter 5: Using Your Reason, Part 1: Utilitarianism |
|                              | Chapter 6: Using Your Reason, Part 2: Kant’s Deontology |
|                              | Chapter 7: Personhood, Rights, and Justice |
| Assignments:                  | Participate in all discussion forums in order assigned |
|                              | Participate in at least one of the Narrative discussions assigned for each chapter |
|                              | Complete the Unit Exam         |
Part 3: How Should I Be? Theories of Virtue -- Opens Wednesday June 14th – Closes Friday June 30th at 11:59pm CDT. The final part of the class examines the most influential theories of virtue in ancient and modern times and allows us to get involved in a detailed discussion of topics that are replete within the contemporary world of the public manager.

**Required Readings:**
- Chapter 8: Virtue Ethics from Tribal Philosophy to Socrates and Plato
- Chapter 9: Aristotle’s Virtue Theory: Everything in Moderation
- Chapter 10: Contemporary Perspectives
- Chapter 11: Case Studies in Virtue
- Chapter 12: Different Gender, Different Ethics?
- Chapter 13: Applied Ethics: A Sampler

**Assignments:**
- Participate in all discussion forums in order assigned
- Participate in at least one of the Narrative discussions assigned for each chapter
- Complete the Unit Exam
- Create your own Narrative, three relevant discussion questions and suggested responses to those questions.