For the course ECS 5304

Dear Students,

Please read the syllabus of the course.

At the next lecture, we will
1) Review the syllabus and the evaluation methods and criteria together;
2) Explain the main concept and go through the introduction of the course
3) Begin the 1st part of the course: Moral, Ethics and Truth, more specifically, start examining Part a) : Postmodern cultural conditions.

For the next lecture, please prepare the following readings:

1. In preparation for the Introduction:
Bulgakov, M. The Master and Margarita, chap II.
Milgram, S. Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority, in The Individual in a Social World. 1977, Addison-Wesley, pp 102-123.

Please keep these questions in mind when preparing these readings
What is implied in an ethical decision? Is there a difference between an ethics and moral?
What is the importance of the work situation in a conflict situation? Does it have any impact on moral decision making?
How do these readings stress the impact of fear in moral decision making?

2. In preparation to the part on the post modern cultural conditions
Singer B. Introduction to Freitag. European Journal of Social Theory 5 (2) : 171-173 available on line

You can pick up your course pack at RYTEC, 404 Dalhousie Street.

Best regards
Hélène Tessier
Ethical Dimensions of Conflict
ECS 5304
Winter 2013
Syllabus

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Office hours: Tuesday 16:30 – 18:00
Wednesday: 12:30 – 14:00

This course examines some aspects of ethical decision making in conflict situations. What becomes of ethics when put to the test of fear? What conditions make resistance possible? Are ethical standards of legitimacy similar to legal standards? The course aims at analyzing the necessary conditions for ethical decisions making and, while doing so, to understand better the relations between ethics, moral, cultural, political and personal factors that make ethical actions possible.

Learning objectives:
To understand the place of ethics in contemporary culture.
To reflect on the relations between ethics, moral, law and legitimacy
To get acquainted with various theories on ethics
To reflect on the conditions that make ethical decisions possible
To examine the importance of subjectivity in ethical decision making
To analyse the links between moral and ethics in conflict situations and in conflict resolution.
To identify the relations between ethics, action and justice.

Methodology:

Class participation is mandatory. Required readings will be determined for each lesson. Explanatory comments will be given by the professor, who will also lecture on some specific issues. Students will be invited either to comment the text, to formulate some questions for discussion in relation to the material, or to share some thoughts, reflections or critics raised by the readings. In preparing for class discussion the students will address the following issue: what does that paper teach us on ethics in conflict situation or on ethics and reconciliation? In some cases, students will be asked to answer more specific questions.

Some reading will serve as case studies, some will be illustrated by a case presentation. After the second week of teaching, each lecture will include a practical part. Students will be asked to present case illustrations for discussion and analysis, in relation with the material of the lecture.

Reading the material is compulsory for all.
Evaluation:
**Class participation**: 10 % Criteria: knowledge of the required readings, preparation for discussion in class, ability to formulate questions and elaborate on new material, effort to integrate what is learned in readings and lectures, sharing relevant critical comments. These abilities will be measured by oral discussion and from time to time, students will be asked to elaborate in writing on some specific integration issues.

**Mid term exam**: 30 %. The exam will take place on February 12th.

**Presentation of an ethical dilemma in conflict situation**: 15 % (team presentation) Criteria: relevance of the situation with respect to theoretical perspectives learned in class. Thoroughness of critical discussion. Ability to point the various aspects involved in ethical decision making, including the work situation, ethical standards and the difference between ethical standards and moral positions.

**Integration research paper**: 40 %. Criteria: integration and critical discussion of theories learned in class, in relation to a factual conflict situation. Ability to distinguish between legal requirements, ethical and moral position. Ability to formulate a question in terms of its moral dimensions.

**Short presentation of the paper in class**: 5%: ability to summarize the ethical points and explain them clearly in a way that allow for clarification of the issue and further discussion.

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**Course outline**

**INTRODUCTION**


The course is structured around 4 themes:

1. **Moral, Ethics and Truth**
   a) Postmodern cultural conditions
b) Postmodern conditions, law, governance and ethics (the example of human rights and equality law)

2. Moral positions, ethical theories and their relevance to conflict situations. Critical considerations: how do they relate to postmodern cultural conditions.
   a) Classical theories (Aristotle, Kant)
   b) More recent theories
   c) Marxist approach
   d) Psychological considerations: ethics of care, the centrality of work.

3. Legitimacy, ethics and morality: the test of fear
   Political circumstances, civil disobedience and criminal law.

4. Law, ethics and reconciliation
   International institution, reparative justice.
   Reconciliation or”resentment “(Améry)?

Required readings:

Bulgakov, M. The Master and Margarita, chap II.
Milgram, S. Some Conditions of Obedience and Disobedience to Authority, in The Individual in a Social World. 1977, Addison-Wesley, pp 102-123.
Singer B. Introduction to Freitag. European Journal of Social Theory 5 (2) : 171-173 available on line
Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, ch. 1, 2, 3 5. Available on line
Held V. Can the Ethics of care handle violence? Ethics and Social Welfare, 4:2, 115-129
Available on line.
- Concept of Legitimate Order
- Sociology of Charismatic Authority
- Pure types of legitimate Authority
Charismatic Authority and its Routinization
- Bureaucracy
Cryer, R. Friman, H. Robinson, D. Wilmshurst, E., War Crimes. Id.
Pellet, A. Internationalizes Courts: Better than nothing…., in Romano, C. Nollkaemper, A.

Judicial decisions: references to be given in class

Additional bibliographical references


Jonas H. The Imperialism of Responsibility, 1984, UCP, pp117-123.

Bird, F.B., Underlying causes of Moral Silence, Deafness and Blindness, Quorum 1996, pp143-175 Available on line.


