

RESEARCH IN THE DISCIPLINES: EVERYDAY ETHICS

Spring 2014 — course: 355:201:08 (hybrid)
days: Th time: 11:30 – 12:50 location: Scott Hall 221

Instructor: John Holliday
Office: Murray Hall 036B
Office Hours: MW 3 – 4:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

This is a research-writing course, where we'll focus on all the ins and outs of writing a research paper, from finding research materials and sorting through those materials to synthesizing sources and contributing something new to a debate or academic discussion. And all the analytic and argumentative skills you've picked up in Expository Writing and elsewhere will be the foundation for this research work.

But this is also a discipline-specific research-writing course, and our focus is on ethics, particularly applied ethics. From issues in abortion, sexuality, suicide, euthanasia, punishment, war, and famine to small actions we take day in, day out, we are constantly confronted with the tricky business of morality. In this course, we will examine debates over this business and our moral obligations in all areas of life; and you will become an expert in a small slice of this domain. But more importantly, you will begin to sort out in a rigorous fashion what you think is right and wrong, where our moral obligations lie, and why you think that is. You will take serious steps in situating yourself within the often thorny landscape of morality. Whether you're ultimately interested in applied ethics from a philosophical, sociological, anthropological, scientific, or historical perspective, this course can act as a platform for any of those pursuits.

This course is SAS Core-Certified, fulfills the requirements of Writing and Communication with Revision and/or Writing and Communication in the Disciplines, and fulfills the following learning goals:

- Communicate complex ideas effectively, in standard written English, to a general audience.
- Respond effectively to editorial feedback from peers, instructors, and/or supervisors through successive drafts and revision.
- Communicate effectively in modes appropriate to a discipline or area of inquiry.
- Evaluate and critically assess sources and use the conventions of attribution and citation correctly.
- Analyze and synthesize information and ideas from multiple sources to generate new insights.

POSSIBLE RESEARCH TOPICS

Property rights, economic justice, civil disobedience, duty to obey the law, racism, sexism, sexual assault, affirmative action, hate crimes and hate speech, individual liberty, pornography, censorship, privacy, reproductive technology, genetic engineering, cloning, allocation of medical resources, animal welfare, obligations to family, disability, education, corporate responsibility, environmental ethics, world hunger.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Grammar and citation guide.
- Texts from the Readings section of our Sakai site.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

- Frey, R. G. and Christopher Heath Wellman. 2003. *A Companion to Applied Ethics*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- LaFollette, Hugh, ed. 2003. *The Oxford Handbook of Practical Ethics*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- . 2002. *Ethics in Practice*. 2nd ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- Modern Language Association of America. 2009. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America.
- University of Chicago Press. 2010. *The Chicago Manual of Style*. 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

| Course Requirement | Grade Percentage |
|---|------------------|
| Participation | 10% |
| Analytic Essay (rough and final) | 10% |
| Research Proposal (rough and final) | Pass/No Pass |
| Five Literature Reviews | 10% |
| Oral Presentation | 10% |
| Research Project (three drafts and final) | 60% |

Note: All work should be typed unless stated otherwise. Please double space, use Times New Roman, 12-point font, one-inch margins, and follow MLA or Chicago parenthetical citation guidelines.

PARTICIPATION

Your participation grade is determined by your performance on the Analytic Essay draft, the Research Proposal draft, and the three Research Paper drafts. The completion and timely submission of each draft is worth 2% of your overall grade. For each draft you complete and submit on time, you will receive full credit for that item. For each draft you do not complete and submit on time, you will receive no credit for that item.

WRITING

The Analytic Essay is 5 pages and in response to a prompt concerning the texts we will discuss as a class. The rest of the writing you'll do will be directly in service of the Research Project, which culminates in a 10–12 page Research Paper concerning an applied ethics issue of your choice. The Research Proposal is 2 pages. And each Literature Review is 1–2 pages.

- You must receive a passing grade on the research paper in order to pass the course.
- The lowest passing grade for a paper and for the course is C.
- Research Proposal and all drafts of papers must be submitted to pass the course.
- If you are two drafts behind on the Research Project, you fail the course.
- For every class the Analytic final is late, it will be reduced a half grade.
- For every class the Research Proposal final is late, the final Research Paper will be reduced one half of a letter grade.
- For every class a Literature Review is late, its grade will be reduced 10%.
- For every class a Research Draft is late, the final Research Paper will be reduced one half of a letter grade. For every *day* the final Research Paper, it will be reduced a half letter grade.
- All grades are subject to departmental review.

GRADING SYSTEM

Grades for all assignments will be calculated in terms of raw %. Final grades for the course will be calculated as follows (Rutgers does not recognize minuses; the Rutgers Writing Program does not recognize Ds):

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| % | 93 | 89 | 81 | 77 | 70 | 0 |
| letter | A | B+ | B | C+ | C | F |

ATTENDANCE

Attendance of all classes is expected. If you anticipate missing any class, please use the University absence reporting website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email will be sent to me automatically. Absences due to religious observances are excused, but you are required to notify me of your anticipated absence *in advance*. After four absences for any other reason (including illness), you *risk failing the course*. Every 30 minutes you are late to class counts as ½ of an absence.

FACEBOOK

During online discussion weeks, you must post at least once on our Facebook group page. Otherwise, you will be considered absent. Our Facebook group is where we'll have all online discussions, both about the material and anything else related to the course you think might be interesting to all and worth posting about (e.g. ethics issues, videos, events, organizations, articles, and so on). The first thing you need to do is request membership in the group so I can add you (the link is on our Sakai page).

The Facebook group will be closed (i.e. private), and once everyone from our class is added, I'll make it secret (i.e. super private). No one but us will be able to see the posts (and after it's secret, no one will even be able to search for the group). But if you would rather not have your personal Facebook profile attached to the course (because it's personal), then just make a new one to use for class and request group membership with that one. And finally, if you want to friend anyone from class, that's totally cool, but don't feel as though you should or need to. We're here to discuss research writing and ethics. Facebook is just way better than Sakai as far as having discussions and sharing info goes.

GOOGLE DRIVE

During online peer review weeks, you must comment on two papers in our Google Drive folder *before* our in-person class that week. Otherwise, you will be considered absent. In order to comment, you will need a Google Drive account (this doesn't mean you need a Gmail account).

POLICIES

- You must have a Rutgers ID card and know your library PIN. If you do not know your library PIN, visit the circulation desk of any library for assistance.
- Keep all rough and final drafts with my comments for two folder reviews.
- Regularly check our Sakai course site at sakai.rutgers.edu, our Facebook page, and your Rutgers email.
- All final drafts must be submitted on Sakai before class on the day they are due and at the beginning of class as a hard copy.
- Though not a requirement, I strongly suggest you sign up for tutoring at one of the Writing Centers. The service is free and available on Douglass, College Avenue, and Livingston campuses. You can initially sign up for five weeks and then extend the time if you like. Students using the tutoring service spend one class period per week with a tutor.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students are expected to comply with the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy. Any violations of this Policy will be confronted and reported. For more information on the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy, visit academicintegrity.rutgers.edu.

SPECIAL NEEDS & SITUATIONS

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, you must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus' disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with me and discuss the accommodations with me as early as possible. To begin this process, complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES AND OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are unable to meet the deadlines of any course requirements due to religious observances, you are required to notify me of this *in advance*. If you are unable to meet the deadlines of any course requirements due to medical reasons, you must give me a note signed by a health care professional documenting the date of a medical appointment or time during which illness prevented the completion of course requirements. If you are unable to meet the deadlines of any of the course requirements due to personal reasons, speak to me as soon as possible (some form of documentation will be required).

CALENDAR

NOTE: THIS CALENDAR IS TENTATIVE AND MAY BE REVISED THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER.

| WEEK ONE | |
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| Th 1/23 | COURSE INTRODUCTION Research topics, synthesis, & contributing something new |

| WEEK TWO | |
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| ONLINE | DISCUSS Rachels, "Some Basic Points About Arguments" LaFollette, "Abortion" Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion" |
| Th 1/30 | DISCUSS Rachels & Warren BRAINSTORM research topics |

| WEEK THREE | |
|------------|---|
| ONLINE | DISCUSS Marquis, "Why Abortion is Immoral" Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion" |
| Th 2/6 | DISCUSS Marquis & Thomson BRAINSTORM research topics |

| WEEK FOUR | |
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| ONLINE | DUE T 2/11: Analytic Essay Rough Draft (<i>upload to Google Drive class folder</i>) PEER REVIEW (comment on two drafts before Thursday's class) |
| Th 2/13 | DISCUSS Analytic Essay & abortion debate BRAINSTORM research topics |

| WEEK FIVE | |
|-----------|---|
| ONLINE | DISCUSS Research Proposal & Literature Reviews Topic Sign-up Deadline |
| Th 2/20 | DUE: Analytic Essay Final Draft (<i>submit on Sakai & bring paper copy</i>) COMPUTER LAB (Records Hall 156) |

| WEEK SIX | |
|----------|---|
| ONLINE | DUE T 2/25: Research Proposal Rough Draft (<i>upload to Google Drive class folder</i>) PEER REVIEW (comment on two proposals before Thursday's class) |
| Th 2/27 | DUE: Literature Review 1 (<i>bring paper copy</i>) ALEXANDER LIBRARY (IHL415 – fourth floor): Library Session (come prepared with questions) |

| WEEK SEVEN | |
|------------|--|
| ONLINE | DISCUSS arguments & Research Proposal |
| Th 3/6 | DUE: Research Proposal Final Draft (<i>submit on Sakai & bring paper copy</i>) DUE: Literature Review 2 (<i>bring paper copy</i>) DUE: Mid-Term Folder ALEXANDER LIBRARY: Research & Student Conferences |

| WEEK EIGHT – MID-SEMESTER FOLDER REVIEW | |
|---|--|
| ONLINE | DISCUSS arguments & Draft I |
| Th 3/13 | DUE: Literature Review 3 (<i>bring paper copy</i>) DISCUSS arguments & Draft I |

| WEEK NINE | |
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| SPRING BREAK | |

| WEEK TEN | |
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| ONLINE | DUE T 3/25: Research Paper Draft I (<i>upload to Google Drive class folder</i>) PEER REVIEW (comment on two drafts before Thursday's class) |
| Th 3/27 | DUE: Literature Review 4 (<i>bring paper copy</i>) PANEL WORKSHOP |

| WEEK ELEVEN | |
|-------------|---|
| ONLINE | PANEL WORKSHOP |
| Th 4/3 | DUE: Literature Review 5 (<i>bring paper copy</i>) PANEL WORKSHOP |

| WEEK TWELVE | |
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| ONLINE | DUE T 4/8: Research Paper Draft II (<i>upload to Google Drive class folder</i>) PEER REVIEW (comment on two drafts before Thursday's class) |
| Th 4/10 | ALEXANDER LIBRARY: Research & Student Conferences |

| WEEK THIRTEEN | |
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| ONLINE | DISCUSS arguments, research, paper progress & panel presentation prep |
| Th 4/17 | PANEL PRESENTATIONS |

| WEEK FOURTEEN | |
|---------------|--|
| ONLINE | DUE T 4/22: Research Paper Draft III (<i>upload to Google Drive class folder</i>) PEER REVIEW (comment on one draft before Thursday's class) |
| Th 4/24 | PANEL PRESENTATIONS |

| WEEK FIFTEEN | |
|--------------|---|
| ONLINE | PANEL PRESENTATIONS |
| Th 5/1 | DUE: Final Research Paper (<i>submit on Sakai & bring paper copy</i>) DUE: Final Folder PANEL PRESENTATIONS |