Office hours and contact information. Mondays 4-5 pm (except April 10) or by appointment in Bunche 7387 (not Bunche 4343). You can reach me at lohmann@ucla.edu.

Course description. This class consists of two parts, the first of which covers ethics, the second, governance. Special emphasis will be placed on the relationship between religion and ethics and governance.

We shall explore normative ethics (how people should reason about Right and Wrong); empirical ethics (how we actually reason); and meta-ethics (how we can ground ethics). Normative ethics includes the standard ethical principles: utilitarianism, rights, justice-fairness, and virtue ethics. Empirical ethics relies on evolutionary psychology (ancestral environment), social psychology (experiments), anthropology (cross-cultural differences), and history (cultural change over time). Meta-ethics splits into two camps, realist (there are objective values) and anti-realist (there are no objective values). The latter includes moral, or cultural, relativism and religion.

Next, we shall examine collective action. Problems of collective action include coordination, cooperation, and social cognition. We shall study various political mechanisms by which people can solve these problems, such as committees, bureaucracy, markets, and networks.
Grading. Grades are based 60% on eight homeworks, 10% on a memorandum, and 30% on an exam. I may raise the grades of students who contribute regularly or importantly to class discussions.

Homeworks. Over the course of the quarter, I will hand out about one dozen homework assignments, each of which will come with a due date and time. You are expected to hand in eight or more homeworks. If you hand in more than eight homeworks, you can tell me which eight you want me to grade, or I shall pick eight. A given homework may consist of one to five pages. At the end of the quarter, I would like to have in hand about 20 pages’ worth of homework from you, at least 15 and maximally 25. Homeworks will be graded on quality of information gathering effort and quality of preparation for class.

Purpose of the homework is to prepare you for class discussions. For this reason, late homeworks count as missing homeworks. If you fail to hand in eight homeworks on time, you will receive a grade penalty. Since I shall be handing out about one dozen homework assignments, this leaves you with some wiggle-room if you cannot make the homework on a given day. Because I am giving you some wiggle-room, I will not accept any excuses for late or missing homeworks. If you chronically hand in homeworks late or not at all, you will not be able to participate in and learn from class discussions as intended, and I will be happy to sign a late-drop form; the alternative is for you to get a failing grade.

Memorandum. In the second-to-last class, on June 5, we shall have a class discussion on “Economic Interests versus Moral Values in American Politics.” In preparation for the discussion, you are expected to pick one angle, research it, write it up in a one-page memorandum, and submit your memorandum at the beginning of class on May 31. I will arrange for the complete set of memoranda to be photocopied, and you can pick up your set starting at 1 pm on June 1 at the front desk of the Department of Political Science in Bunche 4289. Your memorandum will be graded on succinctness of presentation and quality of argument and evidence. Provocative and partisan arguments are welcome.
Exam. The take-home assignment will be handed out on the last day of class, that is, June 7. At this time, I will also answer any questions you might have. On a day of your choice, but at the latest on June 15, you may start working on the assignment at 8 am, and then you will have one-and-a-half days, until noon on the second day, to complete the assignment. You must hand in a hard copy by June 16 at 5 pm (slide it under the door of Bunche 7387), or mail it in for arrival by June 16 (Department of Political Science, Bunche Hall 4289, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1472). You will have a choice of two topics corresponding roughly to the two parts of the class (ethics and governance). The exam is open-book open-note open-web. You are expected to produce about five pages, at least four and maximally six. The exam will be graded on quality of argument and evidence.

Format and labeling of homeworks and memorandum and exam. You must submit hard copies; I do not accept electronic submissions. All submissions must be typewritten on one side of the page only. The font should be easily readable; I recommend Times 12. Line spacing should be 1.5 or 2. Figures can be hand-drawn, but neatly. If you are submitting more than one page, please include page numbers. All submissions should be clearly labeled in the upper right hand corner of the first page (but please do not repeat the information on every following page). Here are examples of labels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leslie Hamilton</th>
<th>Leslie Hamilton</th>
<th>Leslie Hamilton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PS 115A</td>
<td>PS 115A</td>
<td>PS 115A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework #1 (#2, #3, …)</td>
<td>Memorandum</td>
<td>Exam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Readings. The following books describe the standard ethical principles:


There exists no textbook that covers this class, and there is no required text. If you feel the urge to buy a book, I recommend:
Further reading recommendations are listed below. You don’t necessarily have to go with my recommendations, and you are expected to go beyond my recommendations. Use the library and use the web (lexis-nexis, Wikipedia) to pull together ideas and information to complete the homework assignments and prepare for class discussions.

Schedule of classes.

MONDAY APRIL 3

CULTURAL VALUES INVENTORY

Introduction

Concepts: Relativism versus commitment
Moral versus ideological disagreement
Preferences versus information versus cultural frames
Cultural theory—egalitarianism (committees), hierarchy (bureaucracy),
individualism (markets), fatalism (chaotic, atomistic, or
freewheeling relationships)

Case: Speluncean Explorers


• Midgley, Mary. 1991. Can’t We Make Moral Judgments? New York: St. Martin’s
Press.

University Press.


• Hood, Christopher. 2005. The Art of the State: Culture, Rhetoric, and Public
WEDNESDAY APRIL 5

Utilitarianism, Rights, Justice-Fairness, and Virtue Ethics

Concepts: Ethical principles

Case: The Learning Curve


MONDAY APRIL 10

Utilitarianism and Justice-Fairness: One World Ethics

Case: The Age of Extreme Weather

One World Government and the United Nations


WEDNESDAY APRIL 12

**Utilitarianism: Happiness and the Politics of Pain**

Cases: Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Handgun Control, or The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence

Polly Klaas and Three Strikes and You’re Out

**MONDAY APRIL 17**

**Utilitarianism: Brain in a Vat**

Case: Massively Multi-Player Online Role-Playing Games


**WEDNESDAY APRIL 19**

**MELODY GILBERT’S DOCUMENTARY “WHOLE” TO BE SHOWN IN CLASS**

**Rights: Neurodiversity**

Cases: Apotemnophilia

- What It Takes To Be a Short-Order Cook in Las Vegas

MONDAY APRIL 24

Rights and Virtue Ethics: Social Movements and Social Norming

Cases:
Interracial, Gay, Polygamous, and Serially Monogamous Marriage

Binge-Drinking Campaigns

Teenage Sex

(http://www.socialnorms.org/index.php : accessed 3-29-06)

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26

Rights and Justice-Fairness: Discrimination and Affirmative Action

Cases:
University Admissions

University Subsidies

Liberal Bias in Academia
MONDAY MAY 1

HISTORY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY “AIRCRAFT CARRIERS” TO BE SHOWN IN CLASS

Coordination and High-reliability Organizations

Case: Aircraft Carriers

The Bali Water Temple System


WEDNESDAY MAY 3

Cooperation and Punishment

Case: The Murder of Kitty Genovese

MONDAY MAY 8

Social Cognition and Committees

Cases: Consensus Decision-Making in Anti-Globalization Groups

The Winner’s Curse and the Swing Voter’s Curse


WEDNESDAY MAY 10

Social Cognition and Markets

Case: Policy Analysis Markets


MONDAY MAY 15

Social Cognition and Hierarchies and Networks

Case: September 11

Weapons of Mass Destruction

**WEDNESDAY MAY 17**

**Human Complex Systems**

- Evolutionary psychology
- Cultural theory
- Human complex systems


**MONDAY MAY 22**

**Evolutionary Psychology of Religion**

Cases: The God Project

The Bali Water Temple System

• Dennett, Daniel C. *Breaking the Spell: Religion as a Natural Phenomenon*. Viking 2006.

**WEDNESDAY MAY 24**

**Religious Storms**

Cases: The Religious Wars

Veiled Women and Angry Young Men

  New Yorker. April 3.
  with Popular Religiosity and Secularism in the Prosperous Democracies.” Journal of 
  25-06)
  House.

MONDAY MAY 29
MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

WEDNESDAY MAY 31
PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR “MORAL VALUES” MEMORANDUM IN CLASS

Economic Interests versus Moral Values in American Politics
Case: What’s the Matter with Kansas?
• Frank, Thomas. 2004. What’s the Matter with Kansas? How Conservatives Won the 
  Heart of America. New York: Metropolitan.
• Lakoff, George. 2003. “Framing the Dems: How Conservatives Control Political 
  Debate and How Progressives Can Take It Back.” The American Prospect. September 
  1. (http://www.prospect.org/print/V14/8/lakoff-g.html : accessed 3-25-06)
• Adams, Michael. 2005. American Backlash: The Untold Story of Social Change in the 
  United States. Toronto: Viking Canada. [I ordered this book through Amazon Canada. 
  A description of this research is available on the web:]
• Franke-Ruta, Garrance. 2006. “Remapping the Culture Debate.” The American 
  Prospect. February. (http://www.prospect.org/web/printfriendly-view.ww?id=10844 : 
  accessed 3-25-06)]

MONDAY JUNE 5

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR SET OF STUDENT MEMORANDA STARTING AT 1 PM ON JUNE 1 AT THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FRONT DESK

Economic Interests versus Moral Values in American Politics, Continued

Case: American Theocracy

See also readings for June 5.


(WWW.Gladwell.com/2005/2005_09_12_a_warren.html : accessed 3-26-06)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR TAKE-HOME EXAM ASSIGNMENT IN CLASS

Review