Instructor:
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Description: This course will study major issues in the morality—or lack thereof—of political life. It will cover both readings in moral and political theory and real-world examples: Watergate, terrorism, civil rights politics, presidential campaigns. Topics: basic ethical theory; role-relative ethics; "Machiavellian" amoralism; democratic responsibility and representation; ethics of compromise; "dirty hands" problems; international ethics.

Lecture course: two lectures a week of one hour fifteen minutes each, plus a discussion section to be arranged.

Enrollment Notes:
—the same class counts for both Public Policy and Political Science credit. Undergraduates must sign up for a discussion section under the Public Policy number or the Political Science number (not both), but each section will in fact be mixed (half Public Policy slots, half Poli Sci). Thus each section appears to have a limit of nine students when signing up, but will in fact contain eighteen. The requirements and grading will be the same for all students and the sections will draw no distinctions between those signed up under each heading.
—this course is not part of a sequence with 115a. The two courses have very little in common, and neither is a prerequisite for the other.
—Enrollment is limited to 108: six sections of 18. EXTRA PTEs WILL NOT NORMALLY BE GIVEN OUT as the existing numbers are on the edge of what allows for real discussion.
—Students on hold for a Political Science section are encouraged to enroll in the corresponding Public Policy section if there is space, since both fulfill the same requirements.

Texts (available in Ackerman BookZone):
Martin Benjamin, Splitting the Difference: Compromise and Integrity in Ethics and Politics. (Univ. Press of Kansas).
Immanuel Kant, Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals (Indianapolis: Hackett).
John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism (Indianapolis: Hackett).
A course reader for readings not contained in the above texts will be available from Course Reader Materials, 1141 Westwood Blvd. (south of Kinross), 310-443-3300.

Also: Kennedy School of Government Case Studies, “The Saturday Night Massacre,” Parts A-D (Handout: reproduction is not allowed.)

A **graduate section** of the course will be offered, meeting with the professor once a week. Graduate students will enroll in Public Policy C249 and will be expected to fulfill different requirements (see below).

**Requirements:**

- 4-6 pp. paper .................................................................15%
- 6-8 pp. paper ..................................................................25%
- Sit-down, three-hour final examination ................................35%
- Five pop quizzes @ 2% each .........................................10%
- Attendance and class participation ..................................15%

**Graduate students** will be required to fulfill all of the above requirements except that in place of the second (6-8 pp.) paper and the final exam they will be asked to write a paper of 15 concise pages (or 20-25 pages of normal writing).

**Topics and readings:**

1. **Introduction:** 4 April
   Why “Political Ethics” is not quite a contradiction in terms

2. **Ethical Theory:** the basic positions and their critics
   A. Utilitarianism
   Mill, *Utilitarianism*, all. 6 April
   B. Deontological (Kantian) ethics
   Kant, *Grounding*, all. 11 April
   C. Virtue Ethics 13 April


### 3. Role Morality


“The Saturday Night Massacre” (Kennedy School Cases), Parts A-D.


**FIRST PAPER DUE MONDAY, APRIL 24.**

### 4. Political ethics: the case against.

Machiavelli, *The Prince*, all.

### 5. Democracy, Responsibility, and Sympathy


### 6. The Ethics of Compromise

Benjamin, *Splitting the Difference*, chapters 2, 3, 6 (24-74, 139-174). 9 May

Case: The Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in Atlantic City.


*(all these readings in course reader).*


### 7. Good People (?) and Bad Means: the “Dirty Hands Problem”


Sartre, *Dirty Hands*, all.
8. International Ethics

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, extensive selections to be announced.

9. Bringing It All Together


Film: Gillo Pontecorvo, *The Battle of Algiers* (new DVD release, 2004) --to be shown in class if time allows, otherwise in the evening.

Articles for discussion in section (all in course reader):

SECOND PAPER DUE MONDAY, JUNE 5.

Tenth Week:

A contemporary political life

Ed Rollins, *Bare Knuckles and Back Rooms*, extensive selections.

(Guest speaker: Ed Rollins? To be arranged.)

Other topics/overflow.

FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, 12 June 2006, 3:00-6:00 p.m.
This will be a three-hour, sit-down, closed-book essay examination and is expected to take the whole time to complete.