COMM215/204 Ethics and Communication
SPRING 2023

DAYS: MWF 9:20-10:10
ROOM: CORBOY LAW CENTER – ROOM 302
INSTRUCTOR: Killian Heilsberg

E-mail: kheilsberg@luc.edu

Office hours: by appointment and for an hour before class each day

The health and safety of students and staff are of the utmost importance and priority. Below are links where you can find information about the LUC guidelines and assistance you may need regarding CoVid19. Please know situations can change with updated information which LUC will pass along to you

https://www.luc.edu/returntocampus/healthandsafety/requiredpersonalsafetypractices.shtml

https://www.luc.edu/returntocampus/campusscenarios/

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores various approaches to ethical decision-making and applies that process to diverse aspects of every day, contemporary life.

Outcome: Students learn to discern a wide variety of ethical issues concerning communication behavior, apply systematic ethical analysis to various communication situations, and clearly explain their analyses.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this class, students will be able to:

Identify ethical questions

Clarify which issues to investigate
Research an effective, ethical position

Critique and defend an ethical viewpoint

Cultivate meaningful communication methods

**REQUIRED READING**

Instructor will assign articles throughout the course. Students will also be requested to submit articles as well.

Also read anything and everything you can find. You never know what you will discover. Yeah, reading is good for you. Tastes like happy.

**FILMS**

These are not required viewing, but are suggestions of films to watch for heavy, difficult questions. They challenge you. There are lots and lots of others out there, some with more distinct biases, some more subtle.

Sophie’s Choice, 1982

Thank You for Smoking, 2005

Old Boy, 2003

War Witch, 2012

Cider House Rules, 1999

Norma Rae, 1979

Gattaca, 1997

American History X, 1998

Grave of the Fireflies, 1988

Hotel Rwanda, 2004

Last King of Scotland, 2006

Do the Right Thing, 1989
ASSIGNMENTS, DUE DATES, VALUE OF ASSIGNMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Article/Discussion Board</td>
<td>EVERY FRIDAY (by midnight)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Presentation/Partners</td>
<td>AS ASSIGNED</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>AS ASSIGNED</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short paper one</td>
<td>15 February</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short paper two</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, Professionalism, Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL PRESENTATION</td>
<td>AS ASSIGNED</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAM (paper turned in online, during finals time)</td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Late Work Policy** – All work is due by midnight the date assigned. Sometimes there are mistakes on Sakai, so please let the instructor know as soon as possible if there are conflicts. Each day an assignment is late, the grade goes down by one third of a letter grade – for example, A- to B+, B+ to B, etc…
# COURSE CALENDAR

## Week One:
- 16 January: Martin Luther King Jr Holiday – no class
- 18 January: Introduction to the course, syllabus review, ethics, critical thinking
  - Questions and curiosity
  - Discussion board
- 20 January: Plato – Allegory of the Cave

### Discussion Post Due

## Week Two:
- 23 January: The Potter Box
- 25 January: Definition
  - Values
- 27 January: Principles
  - Loyalties

### Discussion Post Due

## Week Three:
- 30 January: Structured Thinking
  - Aristotle Golden Mean
- 1 February: John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism
  - Judeo Christian, Golden Rule
- 3 February: Virtue Ethics
  - Consequentialist Ethics
  - Deontological Ethics

### Discussion Post Due

## Week Four:
- 6 February: What is media?
  - Broadcast
  - Publication
  - Internet
- 8 February: Fiction
  - Nonfiction
  - Storytelling
  - Ethical Responsibility
Personal Responsibility
Cultural Responsibility
Medical Responsibility
Social, Corporate, etc...

Discussion Post Due

Week Five:
13 February  CASE STUDY ONE  Discuss
15 February  CASE STUDY ONE  Debate

SHORT PAPER ONE DUE

17 February  CASE STUDY TWO  Discuss

Discussion Post Due

Week Six
20 February  CASE STUDY TWO  Debate
22 February  CASE STUDY THREE  Discuss
24 February  CASE STUDY THREE  Debate

Discussion Post Due

Week Seven:
27 February  CASE STUDY FOUR  Discuss
1 March      CASE STUDY FOUR  Debate
3 March      CASE STUDY FIVE   Discuss

Discussion Post Due

Week Eight
6 March      SPRING BREAK
8 March      SPRING BREAK
10 March     SPRING BREAK

Discussion Post Due
Week Nine:
13 March    CASE STUDY FIVE        Debate
15 March    CASE STUDY SIX         Discuss
17 March    CASE STUDY SIX         Debate

Discussion Post Due

Week Ten:
20 March    Ethics in Storytelling
22 March    Ethics in Storytelling
24 March    GROUP PRESENTATION LAB DAY

Discussion Post Due

Week Eleven:
27 March    GROUP ONE
29 March    GROUP TWO
31 March    GROUP THREE

Discussion Post Due

Week Twelve
3 April     GROUP FOUR
5 April     GROUP FIVE

SHORT PAPER TWO DUE

7 April     GOOD FRIDAY
Discussion Post Due

Week Thirteen
10 April    EASTER
12 April    SOCIAL MEDIA
14 April    FINAL PRESENTATION rehearsal

Discussion Post Due
Week Fourteen
17 April     FINAL PRESENTATION
19 April     FINAL PRESENTATION
21 April     FINAL PRESENTATION

Discussion Post Due

Week Fifteen:  LAST WEEK OF REGULAR CLASS
24 April     FINAL PRESENTATION
26 April     FINAL PRESENTATION
28 April     FINAL PRESENTATION

Discussion Post Due

Week Sixteen:  ________________
FINALS WEEK

A Note About Finals
This will be a reflection paper written in class on the day of our exam. Please make plans accordingly.

****COURSE CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITH NOTIFICATION****
ATTENDANCE

Attendance, participation, and professionalism are all graded in this class. Being in class is important, and simply showing up is part of the battle. Participating in the class, engaging with the material and your fellow students is the next part, and probably a bit more important. Lastly is professionalism, which includes both of the former as well as being respectful and considerate in the connection.

There will be times we disagree, all of us. It happens. Ignoring is not good and being mean about it is worse. When giving critique, be realistic and thoughtful. When discussing concepts, do the same.

If you have an unexcused absence on the scheduled day of your presentation, you will receive an F for your presentation.

If you are unable to make class, it is important to e-mail the instructor beforehand. If you have more than three absences during the semester, your participation and professionalism grade go down, unless medical documentation proves the necessity of the absence.

This does not apply to student athletes or others who must miss class because of university business, but proper documentation must be provided.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:
School of Communication Statement on Academic Integrity:

A basic mission of a university is to search for and to communicate the truth, as it is honestly perceived. A genuine learning community cannot exist unless this demanding standard is a fundamental tenet of the intellectual life of the community. Students of Loyola University Chicago are expected to know, to respect, and to practice this standard of personal honesty. Academic dishonesty can take several forms, including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, copying another student’s work, and submitting false documents. Academic cheating is a serious act that violates academic integrity.

Students who commit an act of plagiarism, whether deliberately or accidentally, will still be held responsible. Ignorance of academic rules, or failure to fact check work, sources and citations, is not an acceptable defense against the charge of plagiarism. It is true that every thought probably has been influenced to some degree by the thoughts and actions of others. Such influences can be thought of as affecting the ways we see things and express all thoughts. Plagiarism, however, involves the taking and use of specific words and ideas of others without proper acknowledgement of the sources, and includes the following:
Students should be guided by the principle that it is of utmost importance to give proper recognition to all sources. To do so is both an act of personal, professional courtesy and of intellectual honesty; any failure to do so, whether by intent or by neglect, whether by omission or commission, is an act of plagiarism. A more detailed description of this issue can be found at: [http://luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source](http://luc.edu/english/writing.shtml#source)

**Students with Accommodations:** Students who need special accommodations for exams or class meetings because of a learning disability will provide you with a letter documenting the type of accommodations needed. If they claim to have a physical or psychological condition that hinders their ability to perform in class, medical documentation must be provided to the Student Accessibility Center (SAC) and that office will assess whether or not your collaboration is required. These matters are confidential.

Any student with a learning accommodation that needs special accommodation during exams or class periods should provide documentation from Student Accessibility Center and confidentially given to the instructor. The instructor will accommodate that student’s needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of course content and processes. It is the student’s responsibility to plan in advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates.

**PROFESSIONALISM AND ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM POLICIES:**
- Students are expected to be actively engaged in class discussions, courteous, be on time, be attentive and treat the subject professionally.
- All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced and proofread.
- Turn off cellphones and other electronic devices. Laptops are welcome if you are using them to take notes but MUST BE TURNED DOWN DURING ALL PRESENTATIONS.

**Managing Life Crises and Finding Support:**

Should you encounter an unexpected crisis during the semester (e.g., securing food or housing, addressing mental health concerns, managing a financial crisis, and/or dealing with a family emergency, etc.), I strongly encourage you to contact the Office of the Dean of Students by submitting a CARE referral (LUC.edu/csaa) for yourself or a peer in need of support. If you are uncomfortable doing so on your own, please know that I can submit a referral on your behalf – just email me or schedule a meeting with me during office hours. To learn more about the Office of the Dean of Students, please find their websites here: LUC.edu/dos or LUC.edu/csaa.

Phone number: 773-508-8840. Email: deanofstudents@luc.edu