



Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

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

Weekly Article/Discussion Board	EVERY FRIDAY (by midnight)	10%
Case Presentation/Partners	AS ASSIGNED	10%
Group Presentation	AS ASSIGNED	20%
Short paper one	15 February	10%
Short paper two	5 April	10%
Attendance, Professionalism, Participation		10%
FINAL PRESENTATION	AS ASSIGNED	20%
FINAL EXAM (paper turned in online, during finals time)		10%

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

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
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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>

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