

COMM 215



Ethics and Communication - Spring 2014

Tuesday/Thursday, 1 – 2:15 p.m. - CLC 423

“A man without ethics is a wild beast loosed upon this world.”

-Albert Camus

Instructor:
Don Heider
dheider@luc.edu

Co-instructor:
Andrew Kondrat
akondrat@luc.edu

Course purpose and learning outcomes:

Our goal is to help you learn to:

- Recognize moral issues
- Develop your analytical skills
- Develop your sense of moral obligation and personal responsibility
- Apply ethical decision making to real-life situations, especially in regard to your profession

□ Text:

Media Ethics: Key Principles for Responsible Practice
By Patrick Lee Plaisance

Other readings as assigned



Assignments & grading

25 attendance credits, worth 10 points each for a possible	250 points
12 Blog posts, worth 15 points each for a possible	180 points
1 Ethics project	250 points
1 Personal Code of Ethics worth	200 points
Several other assignments worth a total of	120 points

Final grade	1,000 points
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Grading scale: 930 – 1000 A, 900 – 929 A-, 870 – 899 B+, 830 – 869 B, 800 – 829 B-, 770 – 799 C+, 730 – 769 C, 700 – 729 C-, 670 – 699 D+, 630 – 669 D, 629 or below F



Blog Posts

In your Blog Posts, I want you to engage the readings for that week in a meaningful way. That means from the readings as a whole, or from one particular point made, engage the material and tell me in detail whether you support or disagree with the idea(s) presented. Feel free to use excerpts from the reading, and you may also want to bring in quotes or evidence from other sources to back up your point. You may also use photographs, hyperlinks, video or audio clips or other media as part of your posting.

Excellent posts will be written well, demonstrate knowledge of the readings, make a clear and lucid argument and bring in evidence from other sources. An excellent post will be correct in regard to grammar, spelling, and punctuation and offer a new insight into an idea or topic. Excellent posts will receive 15 points.

Good posts will also contain good writing, demonstrate a real engagement with the readings, and demonstrate a good knowledge of the topic. A good post might contain one or two small grammar or punctuation errors. A good post will receive 12 points.

An average post will demonstrate an understanding of the basic ideas and information contained in the readings. It may have some factual or interpretive errors. It may be too wordy, have awkward construction, and contain several grammar, spelling and punctuation errors. Average posts will receive 8 points.

Poor posts lack an understanding of basic concepts in the readings and do not engage those ideas in a meaningful way. These posts contain some major grammatical or proofreading errors and are generally random and disorganized. Poor posts will receive 4 points.

You must post your blog **before** the class session the reading is assigned for. Once posted, send the link to Andrew and I.



Ethics project/paper

Create a digital product using a tool such as Prezi, iMovie, You Tube Video Editor, Audacity, Animoto, Zipmeme, goanimate, etc. that helps explain and further explore one topic touched upon this semester. You will post the final project on a course wiki, and then turn in with it a 750-1,000 word discussion of the ideas, and include at least five references at the end you have used in your research. You will also do a brief presentation on your topic to the class. You will need to turn in the idea and digital format for approval via email to dheider@luc.edu by midnight on 3/19.

Final projects are due Midnight on 4/18.



Academic integrity

Loyola University and the School of Communication expect academic integrity and have policies regarding academic dishonesty. Specifically for the SOC:

1. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in your work will result in a minimum of a failing grade for that assignment. The case may carry further sanctions from the School of Communication or the University, the most serious being permanent expulsion. Avoid turning in work that could be interpreted as plagiarism or academically dishonest (e.g., failing to properly credit a source or using someone else's ideas without clarifying that they are not yours). This is an academic community; being uninformed or naïve is not an acceptable excuse for not properly referencing sources.

2. It is dishonest to:

- Turn in the same work for two classes;
- Turn in a paper you have not written yourself; or
- Copy from another student or use a “cheat sheet” during an exam.

Turning in work that is not your own will result in failure on the assignment and possible dismissal from the class.

You can find Loyola's policies regarding academic integrity at:

http://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml.

Students with disabilities

If you have a special circumstance that may impact your course work and for which you may require accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so arrangements can be made with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD). We will accommodate your needs in the best way possible, given the constraints of course content and processes. Loyola's policy is that it is the student's responsibility to plan in advance in order to meet their own needs and assignment due dates. Additional information about the services available at Loyola, including eligibility for services, is on the SSWD website: <http://www.luc.edu/sswd/index.shtml>.



Expectations

You will arrive on time and prepared.

You will not leave class early.

All cell phones will be muted and not used during class.

You may bring laptops, but they are to be used for notes, not checking email and Facebook.

We are respectful of one another, even if we disagree on an issue.

We take deadlines seriously.



Instructor bios:

Don Heider

I am the Founding Dean of the School of Communication at Loyola University Chicago and founder of the Center for Digital Ethics & Policy. I have edited and authored several books including: [Digital Ethics: Research & Practice](#), [Living Virtually](#), [Managing Television News: A Handbook for Ethical and Effective Producing](#), [Class & News](#), and [White News: Why Local News Programs Don't Cover People of Color](#).

I hold a B.A. from Colorado State University, an M.A. from American University and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. During my former career as a broadcast journalist, I was fortunate enough to have received five Emmy awards and have also won teaching awards at the University of Texas and Ole Miss..

Andrew Kondrat

In addition to the work I do with Loyola University Chicago, I am a bioethicist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. At Loyola, I'm a doctoral candidate in the philosophy department, with specialization in moral philosophy generally, and health care ethics more specifically. Prior to that, I worked in both the public and private sectors in San Diego, California, and I did my undergraduate work at Boston College.