Syllabus

PUAF 650 Moral Dimensions of Public Policy
Fall 2011, Wednesdays 1:30-4:00 p.m.
University of Maryland School of Public Policy

Instructor: Dr. Miguel González Marcos
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00 -1:00 am or by appointment
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Required texts:
• Frederickson and Ghere, eds. Ethics in Public Management, 2005.
• Dorothy Jones, Toward a Just World: The Critical Years in the Search for International Justice, 2002.


Summary of Course and Requirements:
This course provides an overview of moral and ethical issues in public policy decision-making and practices. Class discussions will analyze legitimizing procedures for policy decision-making as well as substantive criteria for judging individual and collective conduct and action. Participants are expected to develop and exercise critical analysis of methods and goals, arguments, and deliberations in policy contexts.

70% Short Policy Analysis Memoranda
During the semester, each participant will write 4 (2-3 pages) policy analysis memoranda. The participants, in agreement with the instructor, will choose the specific topics of these policy papers. The policy analysis memoranda will generally address a current issue or problem related to the topics discussed in the course. Participants will accompany their policy analysis memoranda with brief essays (3-4 pages), explaining how the topic and the analysis relate to the course readings and discussions. In these essays you will be expected to reflect upon the deliberative process involved and your reasons for your recommended course of action. All assignments should be sent via email to the instructor.

30% Class participation
The course will emphasize discussion. Participation and previous reading of the assigned texts is therefore paramount to a successful course. Participant are expected to be prepared to summarize the main arguments and problems addressed in the readings and to participate in class discussion with questions and
comments. Participants should prepare and introduce at least one question or comment for each class.

**Tentative Schedule of Readings:**

**August 31: Introduction**

**September 7: Moral Dimensions of Public Policy: A Theoretical Framework**
- Hugh LaFollette, “Theorizing About Ethics.”
- Peter Vallentyne, “Consequentialism”, LaFollette, ed., Chapter 1
- David McNaughton and Piers Rawling, “Deontology”, LaFollette, ed. Chapter 2

**September 14: Life and Death**
- Brad Hooker, “Rule-Utilitarianism and Euthanasia”, LaFollette, ed. Chapter 4
- J. David Velleman, “Against the Right to Die”, LaFollette ed., Chapter 6

**September 21: The Ethics of War**

**September 28: Retributive Justice: Capital Punishment**
- James Rachels, “Punishment and Desert.” LaFollette, ed. Chapter 47.
- Jeffrey Reiman, “Against the Death Penalty.” LaFollette, ed. Chapter 51.

**October 5: Distributive Justice: Rawls, Nozick, and Young**
- Iris Marion Young, “Displacing the Distributive Paradigm.” LaFollette, ed. Chapter 54.

**October 12: Liberty I: Freedom of Action**

**October 12: Liberty II: Freedom of Speech**
- J.S. Mill, “Freedom of Thought and Discussion.” LaFollette, ed. Chapter 34.
October 19: Market Forces and Public Administration

October 26: Collaboration and Corruption
- Diane E. Yoder and Terry L. Cooper, Public Service Ethics in a Transnational World”. Frederickson and Ghere eds., Chapter 15

November 2: Global Justice I: World Poverty

November 9: Global Justice II: Humanitarian Intervention
- Glover, Humanity, chapters 42, 43, Epilogue.

November 16: Tribalism, Community, and Nation
- Glover, Humanity, chapters 14-18.

November 23: Individual, Communal, and Institutional Ethics: Human Rights as Common Values?
November 30: *More Zoon than Politikon: Natural and Social Foundations of Morality*
  - Readings to be announced.

December 7: *Conclusion*

December 15-22: Evaluation and Grades