**UF 200 CIVIC AND ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS**

*“With Liberty and Justice for All...”*

Spring 2016, Sections 11, 13, 37

January 11 – May 1, 2016

Instructor: Chris Klover

Email: chrisklover@boisestate.edu

University Foundations Office: Riverfront 116

Office Hours: By appointment only

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**Communication With Your Instructor**

My name is Chris Klover. The only way to contact me outside of class is to send me an email. Your best option is to speak to me before or after the class. I will check my email Monday through Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, and sometimes after 9:00 pm. I will check email over the weekend, but not as often. Please email me at chrisklover@boisestate.edu and put UF200 in the subject line. **Do NOT reply to announcements...as they leave out your name and sometimes get lost in a group of replies.**

I will put announcements that address the entire class in Blackboard, along with an email of the same announcement. In person during class and email are how I will contact you individually about grades, concerns and assignment questions; therefore, it is very important to check your email daily and/or have it forwarded to an email account you do check daily.

If want to meet with me, I am happy to make an appointment. The best way to ensure your success in this class is to talk to me in person and let me get to know you.

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**Course Description and Learning Objectives**

*“Safety for Diverse Populations”*

By using the focus of safety as the right of every person, we will study the ethical and civic issues that result in the disabling of safety and security for diverse populations throughout the world. Beginning with building an understanding of our own personal cultural identity (micro level), we will research and discuss how privilege and power appear to be crucial to providing safety and how a lack safety often results when those are missing.

We will use the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a multi-national document that was written following World War II, as the ideal for defining human rights and human rights violations. We will explore the oppression and marginalization of such populations as people of color, women, those persecuted for their religious beliefs and gain an understanding about the issue of poverty and wealth inequality. Using ethical frameworks and ethical decision making models, we will begin to understand the diverse perspectives of stakeholders who have a vested interest in those ethical issues. We will explore those issues at the individual (micro level), community (meso level) and how those issues are present at a global level (macro level.)
By the end of this class, students will be able to identify the ethical dilemmas and civic issues that directly affect several diverse populations at both the local, national and global level. This course includes writing assignments and an experiential learning component. Another perspective for understanding the goals of this course is mentioned under University Learning Outcomes.

The prerequisites for UF200 include: ENGL 102, UF 100, sophomore status. UF200 builds on three University Learning Outcomes or ULO’s. These are the basis for assessing student success in this course: Written Communication (ULO 1), Ethics (ULO 5), and Diversity & Internationalization (ULO 6). More information about each ULO can be found here http://academics.boisestate.edu/fsp/foundational-studies-program/rubrics/.

In terms of the University Learning Outcomes, after successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Write effectively in multiple contexts for a variety of audiences (ULO 1)
- Analyze ethical issues in personal, professional, and civic life and produce reasoned evaluations of competing value systems and ethical claims (ULO 5)
- Apply knowledge of cultural differences to matters of local, regional, national, and international importance, including political, economic, and environmental issues.

In more detailed terms of Course Learning Outcomes, after successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

**Written Communication:**
- Use appropriate voice, tone and level of formality to include consideration of audience and style of writing (blog, research paper, journal, reflective essay, etc...)
- Integrate, synthesize and appropriately document credible sources.
- Be able to revise written work such that student’s writing demonstrates improvement through the process of drafting, reflecting, revising and editing in response to feedback.

**Ethics:**
- Be able to distinguish ethical dilemmas from the facts of particular cases utilizing relevant ethical concepts from the course.
- Successfully identify relevant facts and ethical questions in a given case and identify which ethical frameworks might be applicable.
- In a given case, determine relevant set of facts for multiple (at least two) ethical frameworks and analyze the potential objections to your ethical reasoning.

**Diversity & Internationalization:**
- Demonstrate an understanding of your own cultural and social identity and able to articulate the impact of this on your perspectives about relevant issues to the course.
Clearly identify relevant cultural factors which impact the importance of complex issues to at least two groups beside their own.

Student Code of Conduct
Students are expected to follow the Student Code of Conduct. Taking credit for another person's work, or even work you have completed for another class is grounds for termination or in the case of a class, flunking. Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable. All work submitted by a student must represent her/his own ideas, concepts, and current understanding. Academic dishonesty also includes submitting substantial portions of the same academic course work to more than one course for credit without prior permission of the instructor(s) (Article 6 Section 1 of the Student Code of Conduct) If a student is guilty of academic dishonesty, the student may be dismissed from the class and may receive a failing grade. Other penalties may include suspension or expulsion from school.

Statement on Academic Integrity and Conduct
Students must abide by the *BSU Student Code of Conduct* regarding Academic Dishonesty. The Boise State University *Student Code of Conduct* and policies on Academic Dishonesty are located at the following website. I encourage you to read these carefully. You will be held to these standards in all areas of academic performance.

http://osrr.boisestate.edu/scp-codeofconduct-article6/

Plagiarism is a serious issue that will not be allowed. To find out more about what is acceptable go to the Writing Center or talk with Dr. Caldwell-O’Keefe.

Student Responsibilities
Please note: This syllabus is a skeleton of course responsibilities. Detailed course information is available on our Blackboard course site available through your MyBoiseState account.

Disability Resource Services and Assistance:
Students seeking general disability services and/or accommodations should contact the BSU Disability Resource Center [DRC]. Students seeking special consideration(s) in relation to their coursework and/or attendance must provide proper documentation from the BSU DRC. Upon review of the DRC documentation, individual circumstances will be determined by the lead faculty, student, and DRC. For more information see the website at: http://drc.boisestate.edu/

Blackboard
Blackboard is an important component of this course. It is your responsibility to check the Weekly folders for current readings/work. Blackboard is where you will find the syllabus and readings, answer weekly quizzes, complete group work, submit papers through SafeAssign and check your grades.

Blackboard LOGIN instructions: This course is being conducted with Boise State’s web-based course management system, Blackboard. The login page is located at: http://blackboard.boisestate.edu Not familiar with Blackboard? You can find short instructive videos at: http://oit.boisestate.edu/students/ For more information go
to: http://at.boisestate.edu/lmshelp You must have daily access to a computer with the minimum requirements described at: http://itc.boisestate.edu/BbSupport/BbDocs/general/WhatisBlackboard.htm#equipment

**Support Information**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Student Services</th>
<th>Disability Resource Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hours:</strong> Monday–Friday, 8:00am – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Union Building 2nd floor</td>
<td>Website at: <a href="http://drc.boisestate.edu/">http://drc.boisestate.edu/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Phone: (208) 426-3652</td>
<td>Administration Building, Room 114</td>
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<td>Phone: (208) 426-1583</td>
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<tr>
<th>Technical Issues with Blackboard: Help Desk Hours:</th>
<th>The Writing Center Hours:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday–Thursday 7:00 am–10:00 pm and on Fridays until 6:00</td>
<td>Mon – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekends 10:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Phone: (208) 426-1298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: (208) 426-4357</td>
<td>Website: <a href="http://writingcenter.boisestate.edu/">http://writingcenter.boisestate.edu/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Email <a href="mailto:helpdesk@boisestate.edu">helpdesk@boisestate.edu</a></td>
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**Assignments**

All assignments are found in the **Course Content** link in Blackboard called Assignments and there are links to assignments in the Modules. All other course work will be located under Course Content with links supplied in the Weekly Modules. It is your responsibility to check the Weekly Modules in Blackboard for all upcoming course work. Each Weekly Module folder will have a to-do list of work to be completed.

All of your assignments are to be your own work, not copy and pasted from other sources. All writing assignments will be filtered through SafeAssign, an anti-plagiarism resource for both students and instructors. Assignments are to be completed by each student individually OR completed in groups. Groups will be assigned during the first week of this course.

**Civic Engagement Learning Experiences**

Participation in an out of class Civic Engagement experience is a requirement of this class. Each student will be involved in a minimum of 2-3 hours of civic engagement.

**Required Textbooks**

All of the readings and videos for this course will be available online in Blackboard. They will be accessible in their corresponding Weekly Module. You are responsible for all the reading and video material, as well as having access to a dictionary and a thesaurus.

**Time Management For This Course**
I have estimated that this class will take about 97-100 hours IN TOTAL to complete during the 15 weeks. For reading, I calculated that each page takes 4 minutes to read. You may read faster or slower. Because this is a 3-credit, 15-week class, you should plan to spend up to 4 hours per week outside of class on this course.

All assignments will be due by 11:59 PM Mountain Time. If you encounter an unexpected problem not related to coursework, please contact me immediately. If you encounter a problem with Blackboard, please call the Help Desk at 426-4357. Late and/or incomplete assignments or projects are only accepted when prior arrangements have been made. Please note that Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday March 13, 2016: set your clocks ahead 1 hour.

**Class Participation and Attendance Policy**

To avoid being dropped for non-attendance in the first week of the term (Monday 1/11/16 – Sunday 1/17/16), you must attend class unless other arrangements have been made with your instructor.

This is class requires independent thought and effort. Active and respectful participation in the class discussions is expected and encouraged. When we all share in the learning experience we have a richer opportunity to improve our knowledge and skills. Students are encouraged to share relevant, current materials and experiences regarding these topics with the class. Opportunity to pursue individual interests within this subject area is provided and encouraged in course assignments. I believe we should have discussions so we can learn from each other. You need to read the material and be prepared to discuss points from the readings and videos and your own research each week. Your employer expects you to be prepared for work as do I. Failing to attend classes can cost you up to 35 points per week.

One of the easiest things you can do in this or any class to strengthen your grade is show up prepared and ready to engage. The best way to increase your grade is to speak to me in person when you have questions.

Excused Attendances: If you need to be excused from class due to jury or military duty and traditionally recognized university activities (for example: sports, debate, leadership council, etc.) must provide a formal letter from the appropriate authority, preferably prior to the absence. An illness must be documented by a note from your doctor. In any case, please let me know and I will work with you regarding any absences.

**Class Atmosphere**

This class will adhere to a commitment to social justice. No one will be discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, social class, abilities, or differing viewpoints. Our class should be an open, inclusive, and safe environment for exploring, discussing, and writing about ideas. I don’t require you to embrace or like everything we read and discuss. What I do ask is that you
consider new ideas and alternative perspectives and explore what’s driving your response and/or reaction to those ideas and perspective.

When you disagree, you are strongly encouraged to respectfully engage each other in dialogue. People will always disagree; when we find out why, we can learn from our disagreements. The best way to ask for information about someone’s belief, particularly if you disagree, is not to question them, but to say, “Tell me more about your belief/idea/values.” If you feel discriminated against by something another student or I say during class, please bring this to my attention or consider asking “Tell me more about your belief/idea/values.”

**Description of Class**

Included in this class are
- Weekly readings/videos
- A weekly quiz on those materials
- Weekly individual research (find one source) about the week’s topic
- Weekly in-class discussions (student led)
- Group activities
- 2 reflection papers
- A Global Solutions Research paper
- A Civic Engagement experience (completed in PowerPoint, Prezi, etc.)
- Bringing in the Bystander Training
- Field trip to the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial

**Grading Policies and Assessments**

All Assignments are due in Blackboard on Sunday nights at 11:59 pm the date they are due unless otherwise stated. Late Assignments will be accepted for up to 48 hours after the initial due date, Tuesday nights by 11:59 pm. Turning in late work will cost you 20% of the grade you earned.

Quizzes, Discussion Feedback, Group Activities and Reflections/Discussion Feedback are all due during class. Quizzes must be completed a half hour prior to the first class of the week. Individual research about each week’s topic must be printed and brought to class each week. Quizzes will not be accepted after the class, nor will you be allowed to complete these during class as the readings/videos are necessary material for participation in class discussions and group activities.

If life happens and you anticipate turning in an assignment late, contact me in advance of the deadline. Circumstances such as illness will be taken into consideration, although I will require a doctor’s note or other proof.

**Grading Scale Points**

Please note that you need 700 points, a C grade to pass this class.

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<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>900 – 1000 = A</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>700 – 799</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>800 – 899</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600 – 699</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>599 or below</td>
<td>F</td>
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</table>
Please note that changes may be made to this syllabus throughout the 15-week semester. Total points may change and with that the grading scale points. Your instructor will inform students of any changes to the syllabus or grading scheme.