UF 200 CIVIC AND ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS
Spring 2016

“In With Liberty and Justice for All…”

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<th>Tu/Th 12-1:15 PM</th>
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Course Description

UF 200 CIVIC AND ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS. Engages students in discussion of ethics, diversity, and internationalization. Courses include writing assignments and an experiential learning component. PREREQ: ENGL 102, UF 100, sophomore status.

Course Learning Objectives

The central purpose of University Foundations 200 is to provide sophomore-level Boise State undergraduates with a foundation for living and learning in a complex and diverse world. The course will provide opportunities for each student to carefully consider one’s sense of self, as well as one’s direct interactions with others and one’s role in the larger global community (the structure of micro-, meso-, macro- is central to the course). The course uses the theme of “with liberty and justice for all” as an anchor, examining the meaning and implications of this phrase for self and for others in a variety of contexts.

University Learning Objectives

- ULO 1 – Writing
  - Write effectively in multiple contexts for a variety of audiences.
- ULO 5 – Ethics
  - Analyze ethical issues in personal, professional, and civic life and produce reasoned evaluations of competing value systems and ethical claims.
- ULO 6 – Diversity and internationalization
  - Apply knowledge of cultural differences to matters of local, regional, national, and international importance, including political, economic, and environmental issues.

After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Analyze and articulate one’s own biases, privileges, and limitations, as well as one’s rights and responsibilities, and how these inform one’s preparation for living and learning in a diverse world (ULO 6);
- Use an awareness of ethical frameworks to consider alternatives, make decisions, and imagine and evaluate consequences (ULO 5);
- Consider and take appropriate actions to engage positively in civic and community life as a citizen of a local and global community (ULO 6);
• Communicate ideas needed for living and learning in a diverse and complex world, especially in written form (ULO 1).

Class Texts

We will be using a series of articles that have been posted on the course blackboard page this semester. To maintain flexibility and the ability to focus more on topics where the class is most interested, reading assignments will be identified typically 1-2 weeks before they are due. The date we will be discussing each reading is identified on blackboard – you are expected to come to class on those days having already read the article. The reading load is thus comparatively light but very important to keep up on. If you have trouble downloading any articles, be sure to ask Dr. Vaughn or a fellow classmate.

Assignments and other Course Grade Components

There will be several assignments spanning the course of the semester. Each assignment will be discussed in greater detail during class, often multiple times in the week preceding each due date. Assignments must be turned in at the start of the class period they are due or they will be considered late. In the event of absence, assignments must be turned in early and with the instructor’s consent.

Attendance – 10 points
- Attendance in this class is strongly encouraged. Roll will be called each class period. Each student is allowed to miss and/or arrive late to class two times without penalty. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes after the start of class will be considered late; similarly, students who leave more than 15 minutes before the end of class will not be considered present. After two times, 1 point will be deducted for each absence/late arrival/early departure.

Participation – 10 points
- Participation is an essential component of this class and as such will figure into each student’s grade significantly. Dr. Vaughn will assess each student’s individual performance over the course of the semester, both in terms of in-class discussion and on the course blackboard discussion board. Note: In-class discussion is considered the primary form of participation.

This I Believe/Code of Ethics Assignment – 5 points
- This assignment requires students to choose one of two options. The Code of Ethics should include a bullet point list of at least 5 principles that you base your life choices on, followed by a reflection paragraph that observes the continuities and contradictions in that list. The This I Believe post should be about 2 paragraphs and modeled on what you see when you visit the This I Believe website (http://thisibelieve.org). It can be about any one thing, but I encourage you to read a few examples online before you decide what to write yours about and how. Either option is fine, and are worth up to 5 points. Be sure to bring a typed copy to class with you.

Civic Engagement Group Projects – 15 points
- Students will create and join one of a handful of groups that each focuses on a different project related to civic engagement. They will submit a 1-page reflection by March 31 about their experience semester and also inform the rest of the class what they accomplished.

Discussion Posts & Quizzes – 30 points
- Ten separate class meetings will have either a discussion post due the night before class (10 PM cut-off) or a quiz at the start of class that concerns the material assigned. Each post/quiz is worth up to 3 points.

Ethical Issue Report Project – 30 points
- The major assignment of this course is a research report that investigates a key ethical dilemma. Students will complete this assignment in five parts (see below). The final report will identify an ethical dilemma, discuss its importance and potential solutions, and weigh in on the students’ individual responsibilities. Each part should be typed and turned in at the beginning of class on the stated due date.
  - 5 points – Topic Proposal (1-2 paragraphs) – Due 2/4
  - 5 points – Annotated Bibliography – Due 3/3
  - 5 points - Detailed Outline – Due 3/17
  - 5 points - Rough Draft for Peer Review – Due 4/19
  - 10 points – Final Draft – 5/5

III. Course Policies

Grading Policy
Grades in this course are cumulative. That is, as the session goes on you have the opportunity to earn up to 100 points. Please note the following: I do not change grades unless I make a computational error. I do not curve grades. Grades will be posted on Blackboard within a reasonable amount of time. I do not reveal grades via e-mail or telephone. Final grades will be based, without exception, on the following scale:

97-100 points = A+
93-96 points = A
90-92 points = A-
87-89 points = B+
83-86 points = B
80-82 points = B-
77-79 points = C+
73-76 points = C
70-72 points = C-
67-69 points = D+
63-66 points = D
60-62 points = D-
59 points or less = F
Class Atmosphere
This class will adhere to a commitment that 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. When you disagree, you are strongly encouraged respectfully engage each other in dialogue. People will always disagree, when we ask each other why, we can learn from our disagreements.

Blackboard
Blackboard is an important component of this course. That is where you will find the syllabus and readings, take online quizzes, submit papers through safe assignment and check your grades. If you are not familiar with Blackboard, you can find short instructive videos at at.boisestate.edu/help.

Written Work Policy
All assignments must be typed (double spaced, Times New Roman fonts, traditional margin settings, pages numbered) and all references must be cited using MLA style. Work that does not do so will be penalized one letter grade. The following link leads to a very useful guide concerning MLA style: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/.

Classroom Discussion Policy
I strongly encourage you to participate in class discussions. Ask questions, offer opinions, and engage with your fellow classmates vigorously, but remember to do so politely and professionally. This is the case for all courses and disciplines, but particularly this one, where political ideas and values are so tightly connected with our personal identities. It is always acceptable to disagree with other’s statements or ask tough questions, but do not cross over the line and become disrespectful or offensive. Students who do so will be asked to leave class and will not receive attendance points for that day.

Academic Honor Policy
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 and will result in a grade of “0” for that assignment the first time. Two or more incidents will result in an automatic F for the course. I will enforce this policy for all assignments, examinations, and other course activities. 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). When you get there see Section 1 pg. 13 Academic Dishonesty. 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. All instances of conduct code violations will be reported to the appropriate university office.
This statement came from Boise State's own Dr. Tedd McDonald's Community Psychology syllabus. He adapted these examples from Lisi Porter (1997) Academic Honesty: An Ounce of Prevention.

The following are examples of plagiarism:
A. Copying homework answers from your text or friend to hand in for a grade.
B. Failing to give credit for ideas, statements of facts, or conclusions derived from another author. Failing to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it is in a paragraph, sentence or part thereof.
C. Submitting a paper purchased from a research or term paper service
D. Retyping a friend's paper and turning it in as your own.
E. Using a paper or part of a paper you wrote for another class and turning it in for this class without referencing it.

**Disability 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/](http://drc.boisestate.edu/)