

COURSE SYLLABUS

HON 102 Justice, the Common Good, and Contemporary Issues
MWF 11:00-11:50 am
FWLR 4
Spring 2010

Instructor: R.J. Snell
Office: McInnis Hall 214
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00, T&R 9:00-9:50, and by appointment
Phone: 610.225.5049
Email: rsnell@eastern.edu

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As Christians, we are called not just to walk humbly with our God, but also to act justly and to love mercy (Micah 6:8). Eastern University and the Templeton Honors College have a special commitment to justice and mercy, and in this class we will explore the concepts of justice and the common good by examining major texts and thinkers from the classical, Christian, modern, and contemporary perspectives. Particular attention will be given to the forms of regimes, especially the republic, the validity and purpose of the law, differing conceptions of justice and their practical consequences, and contemporary issues demanding thoughtful attention. The course also encourages the application of justice through service learning, although the course assumes that careful study, reading, and writing are also unique opportunities to serve the common good.

II. COURSE GOALS:

- Students develop requisite skills and habits needed for sustained and productive inquiry and leadership.
- Students develop love of liberal learning needed for sustained wonder and a life of further questions.
- Assist students in spiritual formation and its requisite practices and virtues.
- Assist the student in achieving substantial familiarity with major problems, topics and figures relating to justice and the common good, investigate possible solutions, and enable the student to develop rational positions concerning these figures and problems.

III COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

To satisfy the above goals the following are required.

- Five 2-3 page reflection papers worth 20 pts each for a total of 100 pts. The student is asked to raise and investigate in an intellectually rigorous fashion a problem suggested by the reading(s). Grades are determined by the quality of the problem investigated and the rigor of the investigation.
- Six in-class reading quizzes. These serve as reading quizzes covering the material assigned for that day—quizzes will occur at the discretion of the instructor and will not be announced ahead of time. Each quiz is worth 10 pts for a total of 40 pts, the lowest two quiz grades being dropped. There are no make-ups.

- One take-home midterm exam, roughly 10-12 pages. Students will receive several questions from which to choose and will receive questions a reasonable amount of time before the exam is due. The exam is worth 100 pts of the final grade. A signed honor statement must accompany the exam. Familiarity and extensive use of course texts is expected. It is expected that exams will be intellectually rigorous, well organized and clearly argued. Grades will be determined according to how well these expectations are met. It is also expected that papers will conform to proper word and grammar usage as well as proper methods of citation.
- One 10-12 page paper worth a cumulative 140 pts (20 pts for annotated bibliography, 20 pts for rough draft, 100 pts for final draft). Note: All written work should be in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, with footnotes, and conform to norms of grammar, style, and format. Additional information on the paper to follow.
- Throughout the semester you will be expected to give 20 hours of your time to community service, several hours of which will occur as a cohort on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. If during the semester you log (and document) twenty hours (5 pts per hour) in community service and hand in a four-page reflection (20 pts) on your twenty hours you will receive the full credit of 120 pts for the service learning component. Additional information forthcoming.
- Participation is expected and necessary to a seminar course. Participation is important – whether by asking questions, by making a comment or by arguing your position – in order to develop your own positions by the end of term. Participation also allows engagement with the text and is thus crucial to understanding the relevance and implications of a thinker. Your arguments also assist other students in understanding material and in developing positions. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ASSIGNED READINGS BE READ PRIOR TO CLASS IN ORDER TO FULLY PARTICIPATE.

Reflection Papers	100 pts	
Service Learning	120 pts	(To determine your grade, divide
Research Paper	140 pts	points attained by possible points)
Midterm	100 pts	
Quizzes	<u>40 pts</u>	
	500 pts	

- The following are the definitions of grades adopted by the faculty as described in the catalogue:

A grade of A represents: 1) Superior understanding of course material and evidence of ability to analyze critically and synthesize creatively; 2) Sound techniques of scholarship in all projects; 3) Creativity, imagination, sound judgment and intellectual curiosity in relating the course material to other areas of intellectual investigation.

A grade of B represents: 1) Understanding of course material and evidence of ability to produce viable generalizations and insightful implications; 2) Understanding of techniques of scholarship in all projects; 3) Sustained interest and the ability to communicate ideas and concepts which are part of the subject matter of the course.

A grade of C represents: 1) Understanding of course material demonstrated by few errors in fact and judgment when discussing the material; 2) Competence in techniques of scholarship; 3) Satisfaction of the minimum stated requirements for the course in preparation, outside reading and class participation.

A grade of D represents: 1) A minimal understanding of the course material demonstrated by some errors in fact and judgment when discussing the material; (2) Very little competence in techniques of scholarship; (3) Satisfaction of somewhat less than the minimum standard of requirements for the course in preparation,

outside reading and class participation. There is no grade of D in graduate school.

A grade of F represents: (1) A lack of understanding of the course material demonstrated by many errors in fact and judgment when discussing the material; (2) An inability to use sound techniques of scholarship; (3) Failure to meet the standard and fulfill the requirements of the course.

A+ 97-100%	A 94-96%	A- 89-93%	B+ 86-88%	B 83-85%	B- 79-82%
C+ 76-78%	C 73-75%	C- 69-72%	D+ 66-68%	D 63-65%	D- 59-62%
F <59%					

IV COURSE POLICIES:

- Attendance is mandatory. Not attending class limits your participation and understanding of material. Any material missed is your responsibility. Excessive absences will result in a grade reduction as determined by the discretion of the instructor.
- All assignments are to be turned in at the *beginning* of class on the day scheduled. Work received later than two days late will receive a zero, although the work must be completed to pass the course. I do not accept work via email.
- Any form of academic dishonesty is subject to review by the College of Arts & Sciences and may result in the failure of the assignment or the failure of the course. This course adopts the standards of unacceptable academic behavior and forms of redress defined in the catalogue of the university.
- Eastern University is committed to facilitating access for students with disabilities through the provision of reasonable accommodations and appropriate support services. To begin this process, students meet with staff at the Cushing Center for Counseling and Academic Support and present documentation of disability to establish eligibility. Staff then review the documentation and consult with the student and other involved parties regarding reasonable accommodations.

V REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Aeschylus, *Oresteia: Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides*, ed. and trans. David Grene and Richard Lattimore (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1969). ISBN: 978-0226307787.
- Thomas Aquinas, *On Law, Morality, and Politics*, 2nd ed., trans. Richard J. Regan (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002). ISBN: 978-0-97220-663-2.
- Nicolò Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, trans. Harvey C. Mansfield and Nathan Tarcov (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996). ISBN: 0-226-50036-5.
- Plato, *Republic*, trans. G. M. A. Grube (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992). ISBN: 978-0-87220-136-1.
- Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Abridged, trans. Stephen D. Grant (Indianapolis: Hackett, 2000). ISBN: 9780872204942.
- And “Othello” from the Riverside Shakespeare, which you should already own from Western Civ.
- *The Holy Bible*.
- HON 102 Reading Packet (RP)—will be provided.

VI TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Week	Day	Topic	Assignments
<i>Part One: The Ancients—Classical and Christian Reflections</i>			
1	W Jan 13	Introduction/Syllabus	
	F Jan 15	Service Learning Information & Sign-up	Role of the Law Essay Due
2	M Jan 18	MLK Day	Service Day
	W Jan 20	Violence, Coercion, and Death	Aeschylus, “Eumenides”
	F Jan 22	What is Justice?	Plato, Book I, Ref 1
3	M Jan 25	Reason: Shaming the Tyrant	Plato, Book I
	W Jan 27	Educating the Free	Plato, Books II and III
	F Jan 29	Kinship with the Divine	Plato, Books II and III
4	M Feb 1	Justice and the Kallipolis	Plato, Book IV, Ref 2
	W Feb 3	Philosopher Kings	Plato, Book V (473c-), VI, VII
	F Feb 5	Regime Change	Plato, Book VIII
5	M Feb 8	The Tyrant and the Philosopher	Plato, Book IX, Manent (RP)
	W Feb 10	The Theological Problem	
	F Feb 12	God’s Law	Aquinas, 10-50
6	M Feb 15	More of God’s Laws	Aquinas, 10-50, Ref 3
	W Feb 17	Even More of God’s Laws	Aquinas, 51-96
	F Feb 19	Justice	Aquinas, 97-129
7	M Feb 22	Justice and Virtue	Aquinas, 97-129
	W Feb 24	Practical Wisdom	Aquinas, 130-133, 164-167, 197-210
	F Feb 26	Justice and the Common Good	Strauss and Voegelin (RP), Exam One
8		Spring Break	
<i>Part Two: The Moderns—Liberalism and Republicanism</i>			
9	M Mar 8	Cities and Regimes	Machiavelli
	W Mar 10	Using Religion	Machiavelli, Ref 4
	F Mar 12	Tyrants and Multitudes	Machiavelli
10	M Mar 15	War and Overthrowing Religion	Machiavelli
	W Mar 17	Virtue	Machiavelli
	F Mar 19	The Republic	Machiavelli
11	M Mar 22	Civic Humanism and the Citizen	Othello, Ref 5
	W Mar 24	Civic Humanism and the Cosmopolitan	Othello
	F Mar 26	The Citizen and the Cosmopolitan	Othello
12	M Mar 29	Modern Political Thought	Hobbes, Locke, Arkes (RP)
	W Mar 31	The American Experiment	Federalist (RP), Annotated Bibliography Due
	F Apr 1	Good Friday	
13	M Apr 5	Easter Monday	
	W Apr 7	The American Republic	Federalist (RP), Service and Reflection Due
	F Apr 9	Civic Society	De Tocqueville, Ref 5
14	M Apr 12	Institutions	De Tocqueville

	W Apr 14	Moral Habits	De Tocqueville
	F Apr 16	Democracy	De Tocqueville
15	M Apr 19	Equality by Default	Putnam, Beneton (RP), Draft Due
	W Apr 21	A Thin People	Rawls, Glendon (RP)
	F Apr 23	Christianity and Rights	Kraynak (RP)
16	M Apr 26	Further Questions	Final Draft Due