

**QUEST 1: IDS 2935**  
**ETHICS AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE**  
**SPRING 2020**



**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Jaime Ahlberg (Philosophy)

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**COURSE DETAILS**

Times and Locations:

T, Periods 6-7 (12:50-2:45) in TUR 2336

R, Period 6 (12:50-1:40) in TUR 2346

Quest 1 Theme: Justice and Power

General Education: Humanities, Writing (2,000 words)

(Note that a minimum grade of 'C' is required for General Education credit)

Class resources, announcements, updates, and assignments will be made available through the class Canvas site ([www.elearning.ufl.edu](http://www.elearning.ufl.edu)).

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary public discourse is teeming with issues of urgent moral concern. From the #metoo campaign and associated conversations about sexual violence to the presence of right wing extremists on campus, and the growing imperatives to respond to economic inequality, we are faced with complex challenges that have ethical problems at their core. It is not always easy, however, to think through these challenges in a responsible and productive way. So, how is one to begin?

This interdisciplinary Quest 1 course explores the how the methods and traditions in the humanities provide resources for approaching publicly relevant ethical issues. The topics we will address include freedom of speech, economic inequality, and sex and gender justice. Philosophical and legal arguments, laws, papal encyclicals, pastoral letters, historical analyses, and news articles will be incorporated into our course readings. The crucial skills we will emphasize throughout the class include identifying the moral dimensions of legal, political, and economic problems; critically evaluating traditions and perspectives; appreciating the diversity of perspectives on these controversial issues; thinking beyond one's own interests; and approaching disagreement with open-mindedness and a willingness to be rationally persuaded. The class is thus for students from any major who want to explore public moral challenges in rigorous, creative ways. Assignments will include short writings on the ethical topics listed above, and a capstone project in which students address an ethical, public issue of importance to them.

## QUEST 1 AND GEN ED DESCRIPTIONS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

**QUEST 1 DESCRIPTION:** Quest 1 courses are multidisciplinary explorations of truly challenging questions about the human condition that are not easy to answer, but also not easy to ignore: What makes life worth living? What makes a society a fair one? How do we manage conflicts? Who are we in relation to other people or to the natural world? To grapple with the kinds of open-ended and complex intellectual challenges they will face as critical, creative, and self-reflective adults navigating a complex and interconnected world, Quest 1 students use the humanities approaches present in the course to mine texts for evidence, create arguments, and articulate ideas.

### **QUEST 1 SLOs:**

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to examine essential questions about the human condition within and across the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Content).
- Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition using established practices appropriate for the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Critical Thinking).
- Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (Critical Thinking).
- Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written forms as appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Communication).

**HUMANITIES DESCRIPTION:** Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

**HUMANITIES SLOs:**

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used in the course (Content).
- Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives (Critical Thinking).
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively (Communication).

**WRITING DESCRIPTION:** The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. The writing course grade assigned by the instructor has two components: the writing component and a course grade. **To receive writing credit a student must satisfactorily complete all the assigned written work and receive a minimum grade of C (2.0) for the course.** It is possible to not meet the writing requirement and still earn a minimum grade of C in a class, so students should review their degree audit after receiving their grade to verify receipt of credit for the writing component.

**WRITING EVALUATION:**

- This course carries 2000 words that count towards the UF Writing Requirement. You must turn in all written work counting towards the 2000 words in order to receive credit for those words.
- The instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on the student's written work with respect to content, organization and coherence, argument and support (when appropriate), style, clarity, grammar, punctuation, and other mechanics, using a published writing rubric (see syllabus pages 12-14).
- More specific rubrics and guidelines for individual assignments may be provided during the course of the semester.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS**

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Reflecting the curricular structures of Quest 1 and these Gen Ed designations, after taking Ethics and the Public Sphere students will be able to:

1. Identify, describe, and explain how the resources available in the humanities can help with becoming a more informed and engaged citizen. **(Content SLOs for Gen Ed Humanities and Q1)**
2. Identify and analyze the histories of and relations among different theoretical frameworks in humanistic traditions of thought **(Critical Thinking SLOs for Gen Ed Humanities and Q1)**
3. Identify, analyze and evaluate moral themes in public discourse **(Critical Thinking SLO for Gen Ed Humanities)**

4. Analyze and evaluate the particular, public ethical issues that we discuss in the course (including free speech, economic inequality, sexual violence) (**Critical Thinking SLO for Gen Ed Humanities**)
5. Analyze, evaluate, and critically reflect on connections between course content and their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (**Critical Thinking SLO for Q1**)
6. Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions about important public ethical issues in oral and written forms appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (**Communication SLO for Gen Ed Humanities and Q1**).

TO SEE HOW ASSIGNED WORK ADVANCES EACH SLO, GO TO PAGES 9-11.

### TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Required books for class are available at the UF Bookstore. Shorter assigned readings will be available through the class Canvas page. Students are required to bring hard copy of the day's assigned reading to class every day; failure to do so may result in loss of participation points.

#### **Required**

##### **Books**

1. Anthony Weston, *A Practical Companion to Ethics*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)
2. Sigal Ben-Porath, *Free Speech on Campus* (Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017)
3. Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (New York: Picador, 2001)

#### **Recommended**

1. A terrific guide to general writing rules is Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style*. The first edition is available online for free: <http://www.bartleby.com/141/>

### GRADE DISTRIBUTION AND GRADING POLICIES

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Participation                        | 10%            |
| 2. 3 Short Papers (900-1100 words each) | 60% (20% each) |
| 3. Capstone Project                     | 30%            |

#### **Grading Scale**

This course will employ the following grading scale:

A	4.0	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	0.67	60-63
E	0.0	0-59

More information on UF's grading policies is available [here](#).

## COURSE POLICIES AND STUDENT RESOURCES

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to arrive on time. Unexcused absences from more than four classes will negatively affect your participation grade. For each unexcused absence beyond fourth, you will lose 10% of your participation grade (e.g. a 100% will become a 90%).

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

### **Academic Honesty**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course.

Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another.

Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not



authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

### **Making Up Work**

Work is due as specified in the syllabus. Late work is subject to a 1/3 grade penalty for each 24 hour period it is late (e.g., a paper that would've earned an A if turned in in class on Monday becomes an A- if received Tuesday, a B+ if received Wednesday, etc, with the weekend counting as two days). To be excused from submitting work at the assigned time, you must give 24 hours advance notice and/or meet the UF standards for an excused absence.

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing UF's standard [online evaluations](#) (summary results will be available to students [here](#)) as well as a course-specific evaluation that focuses on course content and the experience of the Quest curriculum. Class time will be allocated for the completion of both evaluations.

### **Class Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, stay the full class period, and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Electronic devices should be turned off and placed in closed bags. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be kept to a minimum.

### **Materials and Supplies Fees**

There are no additional fees for this course.

### **Counseling and Wellness Center**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center:  
<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### **Writing Studio**

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 302 Tigert Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

## GRADED WORK AND ASSIGNMENTS

(YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL THE ASSIGNED WORK IN ORDER TO PASS THE CLASS)

### Participation and Attendance

You must come to class on time and prepared. This means keeping current on the reading assignments and being aware of the course schedule and activities, as presented in this syllabus, discussed in class, and announced on the course website. It also means bringing the day's reading to class with you. Consistent high-quality class participation—in large and small groups—is expected. “High-quality” in this case means:

- informed (i.e., shows evidence of having done assigned work),
- thoughtful (i.e., shows evidence of having understood and considered issues raised in readings and other discussions), and
- considerate (e.g., takes the perspectives of others into account).

If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc., see the instructors as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.

Unexcused absences from more than four classes will negatively affect your participation grade. For each unexcused absence beyond the fourth, you will lose 10% of your participation grade (e.g. a 100% will become a 90%).

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies specified at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Advances SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

### Short Papers

Over the course of the semester students will be asked to write three original papers (900-1100 words each), which will combine to satisfy a 2000 word General Education requirement. For each paper, students will be asked to find their own news story on the topic at hand (free speech, sex/gender, and economic inequality), and offer an ethical analysis of their own. Each paper must include a full copy of the news source upon which the ethical analysis is based. Please see the attached rubric for the assessment method and the course schedule for due dates.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins, 12 pt Times New Roman. You must include a word-count at the top of your first page. Please also include your name, the date you hand in the assignment, and title your essays. If it is difficult for you to choose a title, consider that a clue that you may need to focus your essay more.

Each paper is to be uploaded onto the course's e-learning site in Canvas. You can log in and find the course web page here: [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu). The papers will be graded electronically, and returned to you electronically. We will consider allowing you to turn in a paper late without penalty only if you have a valid and documented reason for doing so. If you turn in a paper

without a valid or documented reason, 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted for each day it is late (including weekend days!).

It is not truly possible to separate the quality of ideas from the quality of the language through which they are expressed, but we attempt to do so by using a grading rubric for papers. The rubric clearly identifies how we assign point values to each of four levels of achievement (Excellent, Good, Needs Improvement, Unacceptable), according to what level you have reached with respect to each of six areas: the appropriateness of the news article chosen, the presence and clarity of a thesis, the explanation of the issue, the evaluation of the issue, writing mechanics, and writing coherence. Please see the rubric for short papers included at the end of the syllabus for elaboration of these requirements.

Advances SLOs: 3, 4, 6

### **Capstone Project**

The capstone project asks students to identify a public issue of ethical relevance that we have not studied in class, as well as to explore how to understand and address the issue. I encourage students to engage the three central themes of this course in thinking about their ethical issue, including: how to learn about the issue responsibly (information literacy); how to reflect on the issue well (thinking ethically); and how to address the issue in real life (acting ethically). I do not expect students to ‘solve’ the issue, but rather to explore how to address the issue in these three ways. The short paper assignments, in addition to readings and discussion, should prepare you to succeed in this assignment. The grade for the capstone project will be based on 100 points and will involve two parts: a poster presentation and a reflection paper.

#### Part 1: Poster presentation (80/100 points)

Over the latter part of the semester, you will work in small groups on a project that will culminate in a multi-course mini-conference. The purposes of this project are for you to explore ways of addressing and/or thinking about difficult issues in the realm of education, and to clearly and compellingly present your findings to a multidisciplinary audience of your peers. This assignment will involve a topic proposal (due April 1<sup>st</sup>), creation of a poster to be presented at a mini-conference (on April 16<sup>th</sup>), and the writing of a short reflection paper (due April 27<sup>th</sup>). Please see Canvas for a description of all responsibilities and rubrics for details on assessment. Please see the Capstone Rubric on Canvas for a breakdown of requirements and assessment.

Advances SLOs: 1, 2, 3, 6

#### Part 2: Reflection paper (20/100 points for individual paper)

Each student must write a 750-1000 word reflection paper on their experience identifying, evaluating, and considering engagement opportunities on the topic they chose. Students will also be asked to reflect on the ways in which the themes of this course are relevant to their own intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond. These papers will be more informal than your three short essays, but they must be clearly written, thoughtful, and reveal an understanding of the main themes of the course. Please see the Capstone Rubric on Canvas for a description of requirements and assessment.

Advances SLOs: 1, 5



## COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
 ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES INDICATED IN **BOLD**

Week	Topic	Readings and Assignments
1 Jan 7 Jan 9	Introduction to Practical Ethics	1. Jan 7: Introductions, Development of Ground Rules 2. For Jan 9: Weston, Ch. 1
2 Jan 14 Jan 16	Introduction to Practical Ethics	1. For Jan 14: Weston Ch. 2, 3 2. For Jan 16: Peggy Macintosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" 3. On Jan 16: Hatful of Quotes on Ethical Theories
3 Jan 21 Jan 23	Free Speech	<p>On Jan 21: Presentation by April Hines, Librarian, College of Journalism and Communications, "Information Literacy"  <b>BRING LAPTOPS TO CLASS</b></p> 1. For Jan 21: EJ Dickenson, "How I accidentally Started a Wikipedia Hoax..." <a href="https://www.dailydot.com/unclick/amelia-bedelia-wikipedia-hoax/">https://www.dailydot.com/unclick/amelia-bedelia-wikipedia-hoax/</a> 2. For Jan 21: Caitlin Dewey, "How a 13-year old's one-line blog post became a worldwide meme" <a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/02/19/how-a-13-year-olds-one-line-blog-post-became-a-worldwide-meme/?noredirect=on&amp;utm_term=.7dd39b5f9111">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/02/19/how-a-13-year-olds-one-line-blog-post-became-a-worldwide-meme/?noredirect=on&amp;utm_term=.7dd39b5f9111</a> 1. For Jan 23: John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> Ch. 2 <a href="https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/On_Liberty/Chapter_2">https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/On_Liberty/Chapter_2</a> 2. For Jan 23: Jason Stanley, "What John Stuart Mill Got Wrong about Freedom of Speech" <a href="http://bostonreview.net/politics-philosophy-religion/jason-stanley-what-mill-got-wrong-about-freedom-of-speech">http://bostonreview.net/politics-philosophy-religion/jason-stanley-what-mill-got-wrong-about-freedom-of-speech</a> 3. For Jan 23: Clifford Orwin, "What would John Stuart Mill Think about Today's Campus Free Speech Debates?" <a href="https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/what-would-john-stuart-mill-think-about-todays-campus-free-speechdebates/article38005374/">https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/what-would-john-stuart-mill-think-about-todays-campus-free-speechdebates/article38005374/</a>
4 Jan 28 Jan 30	Free Speech	1. For Jan 28: Richard Delgado, "Words that Wound: A Tort Action for Racial Insults, Epithets, and Name-Calling"

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Jan 28: Carl Cohen, “Free Speech and Political Extremism: How Nasty are We Free to Be?”</li> <li>For Jan 30: Graeme Wood, “His Kampf” <a href="https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/06/his-kampf/524505/">https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/06/his-kampf/524505/</a></li> <li>For Jan 30: Please watch the YouTube video interview of Richard Spencer embedded in the “His Kampf” piece (about 11 minutes)</li> <li>On Jan 30: Class Activity—Modular Debate on Free Speech</li> </ol>
5 Feb 4 Feb 6	Free Speech	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Feb 4: Sigal Ben-Porath, <i>Free Speech on Campus</i> Preface and Chs. 1-3</li> <li>For Feb 6: Ben-Porath Ch4, Conclusion</li> </ol> <p><b>Paper #1 on Free Speech due by Sunday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 11:59pm</b></p>
6 Feb 11 Feb 13	Sexual Violence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Feb. 11: Read Diana Meyers, “Feminism and Sex Trafficking”</li> <li>For Feb 11: Read Kaethe Morris Hoffer, “Sex Trafficking Chicago Style”</li> <li>For Feb. 13: Read Kamala Kempadoo, “Women of Color and the Global Sex Trade”</li> </ol> <p><b>Panel on Sex Trafficking Feb. 11 or Feb. 12</b></p>
7 Feb 18 Feb 20	Sexual Violence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Feb 18: Read Claudia Card, “Rape Terrorism”</li> <li>On Feb 18: Class Activity—Explore US Sexual Assault Statistics, RAINN (Bring your laptops to class!) <a href="https://www.rainn.org/statistics">https://www.rainn.org/statistics</a></li> <li>For Feb 20: Listen to <i>This American Life</i>, “Once More, with Feeling” (Act One) <a href="https://www.thisamericanlife.org/603/once-more-with-feeling">https://www.thisamericanlife.org/603/once-more-with-feeling</a></li> <li>For Feb 20: Read Hallie Liberto, “Intention and Sexual Consent”</li> </ol>
8 Feb 25 Feb 27	Sexual Violence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Feb 25: Read study about sexual violence at UF: <a href="https://news.ufl.edu/2019/10/campus-climate-results/">https://news.ufl.edu/2019/10/campus-climate-results/</a></li> <li>For Feb 25: Read Michelle Anderson, “Negotiating Sex”</li> <li>For Feb 27: TBD</li> <li>For Feb 27: Clementine Ford, “Why ‘Asking First’ Doesn’t Excuse Louis CK’s Behaviour.” <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> (Nov. 13, 2017). <a href="https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/why-women-dont-leave-when-men-like-louis-ck-commit-lewd-acts-20171112-gzjdr.html">https://www.smh.com.au/lifestyle/why-women-dont-leave-when-men-like-louis-ck-commit-lewd-acts-20171112-gzjdr.html</a></li> </ol>
9 Mar 3 Mar 5		Spring Break, No Classes
10 Mar 10 Mar 12	Economic Justice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Mar 10: Read Copeland, <i>Economic Justice</i> selections</li> <li>For Mar 10: Read US Catholic Bishops, <i>Economic Justice for All</i> (1985), selections</li> <li>For Mar 10: Read “Economic Justice for All a decade later”</li> </ol>

		4. For Mar 10: Read Francis I, “Message for First World Day of the Poor” (2017) 5. On Mar 12: Class Activity—Hatful of Quotes on Economic Justice 6. On Mar 12: Poster Groups Assigned  <b>Paper # 2 Due Uploaded to Canvas by Sunday Mar 15, 11:59pm</b>
11 Mar 17 Mar 19	Economic Justice	1. For Mar 17: Margaret Drabble, ch. 1 of <i>The Witch of Exmoor</i> 2. On Mar 17: Wealth Inequality Game, Take 1 3. For Mar 19: Ehrenreich, Introduction and Ch. 1
12 Mar 24 Mar 26		1. For Mar 24: Ehrenreich, Chs. 2-3, “Evaluation and “Afterward” 2. On Mar 26: Wealth Inequality Game, Take 2
13 Mar 31 Apr 2		1. On Mar 31: Class Activity—Poster Groups Convene to develop proposals and workplan: bring your laptops to class!  <b>Poster Proposals Due Uploaded to Canvas by Wednesday, Apr 1 11:59pm</b>  2. For Apr 2: David Leonhardt, "Our Broken Economy, in One Simple Chart" ( <i>New York Times</i> , August 7, 2017) <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/opinion/leonhardt-income-inequality.html">https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/opinion/leonhardt-income-inequality.html</a> 3. For Apr 2: Article on the income gap <a href="https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/400-richest-own-more-than-150-million-poorest_us_5c60f627e4b0eec79b250c34">https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/400-richest-own-more-than-150-million-poorest_us_5c60f627e4b0eec79b250c34</a>
14 Apr 7 Apr 9	Economic Justice	1. Apr 7: TBD 2. Apr 9: TBD  <b>Paper #3 (Research Reports) Due Uploaded to Canvas by Monday, Apr 6, 11:59pm</b>
15 Apr 14 Apr 16		1. For Apr 14: Read Famous Dilemmas, selections available on Canvas 2. For Apr 14: Read Anthony Weston, “Values Clash” 3. For Apr 14: Read Anthony Weston, “Creative Problem-Solving”  <b>Wednesday, April 15: 7-8:30pm</b> <b>Public Ethics Café on Economic Justice in Gainesville</b>  <b>Thursday April 16: Poster Fair in Reitz Union Ballroom (no class)</b>
16 Apr 21		1. Course evaluations, wrap up, and reflection  <b>Capstone Reflection Papers due uploaded onto Canvas by 11:59pm on Monday, April 27</b>



## Short Paper Rubric

	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Unacceptable</b>	
<b>News Article</b>	<p>An appropriate article is chosen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The article from a reputable source is included with the paper</li> <li>• Its content is ethical in nature</li> <li>• It is about an issue of contemporary public concern (last 6 mo.)</li> <li>• It is of 'digestible' size (substantive enough to write about, not too long that it cannot be substantively addressed)</li> </ul> <p>5 points</p>	<p>An appropriate article is chosen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The article from a reputable source is included with the paper</li> <li>• Its content is ethical in nature</li> <li>• It is about an issue of contemporary public concern (last 6 mo.)</li> </ul> <p>However:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may not offer enough substance to argue about</li> <li>• It may be too large or unwieldy for the purposes of argumentation</li> </ul> <p>4 points</p>	<p>The article is included with the paper, however:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The article is not from a reputable source</li> <li>• The topic is not clearly ethical</li> <li>• It is not about an issue of contemporary public concern (last 6 mo.)</li> </ul> <p>1- 3 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The article is not submitted with the paper.</li> <li>• The article is not ethical in nature, and is not about an issue of contemporary public concern (last 6 mo.)</li> </ul> <p>0 points</p>	5 points
<b>Thesis</b>	<p>A clear statement of the main conclusion of the paper.</p> <p>5 points</p>	<p>The thesis is obvious, but there is no single clear statement of it.</p> <p>4 points</p>	<p>The thesis is present, but must be uncovered or reconstructed from the text of the paper.</p> <p>1- 3 points</p>	<p>There is no thesis.</p> <p>0 points</p>	5 points
<b>Exposition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The paper contains accurate and precise summarization, description and/or paraphrasing of the issue being discussed</li> <li>• Key concepts and theories are accurately and completely explained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The summarization, description and/or paraphrasing of the issue is fairly accurate and precise.</li> <li>• Key concepts and theories are explained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The summarization, description and/or paraphrasing of the issue is fairly accurate, but not precise.</li> <li>• Key concepts and theories are not explained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The summarization, description and/or paraphrasing of the issue is inaccurate.</li> <li>• Key concepts and theories may be identified but are not explained.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When appropriate, good, clear examples are used to illuminate concepts and issues and/or support arguments.</li> <li>• The paper uses appropriate textual support.</li> </ul> <p>31-35 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples are clear, but may not be well chosen.</li> <li>• The paper has textual support, but other passages may have been better choices.</li> </ul> <p>28-31 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples are not clear, and may not be well chosen or appropriate.</li> <li>• The textual support is inappropriate.</li> </ul> <p>25-28 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examples are not clear, are inappropriate, and/or do not illuminate concepts and issues.</li> <li>• No textual support.</li> </ul> <p>0-25 points</p>	35 points
<b>Evaluation</b>	<p>The paper presents an original argument regarding a position on an issue of ethical import. This argument is supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• checking for support in the argument</li> <li>• checking for the argument's internal consistency</li> <li>• considering objections to one's own argument. This involves presenting 1 or more plausible and appropriate objections, and responding to them thoroughly.</li> </ul> <p>31-35 points</p>	<p>The paper presents an original argument regarding a position on an issue of ethical import. This argument is supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• checking for support in the argument</li> <li>• checking for the argument's internal consistency</li> <li>• considering objections to one's own argument, though the objections may be ill chosen and/or not thoroughly responded to.</li> </ul> <p>28-31 points</p>	<p>The paper presents an original argument but describes and/or considers its plausibility in a weak or superficial way. It does not check for the support offered in the argument or the argument's internal consistency. It does not defend the central argument against plausible objections.</p> <p>25-28 points</p>	<p>The paper does not present an original argument about the issues in question, or, it fails to offer support through rational argument.</p> <p>0-25 points</p>	35 points
<b>Writing: Mechanics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sentences are complete and grammatical.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sentences are complete and grammatical.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A few sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many sentences are incomplete and/or ungrammatical.</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paper has been spell-checked and proofread, and has no errors, and no rhetorical questions or slang.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paper has been spell-checked and proofread, and has very few errors, and no rhetorical questions or slang.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paper has several spelling errors, rhetorical questions and/or uses of slang.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Paper has many spelling errors, rhetorical questions and/or uses of slang.</li> </ul>	10 points
	9-10 points	9-8 points	8-6 points	6-0 points	
<b>Writing: Flow and Coherence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All words are chosen for their precise meanings and are used consistently.</li> <li>● All of the content of the paper is relevant to the main line of argument; no extraneous material.</li> <li>● Ideas are developed in a natural order. Premises fit together naturally and it is easy to identify the main line of argument and to understand what is being said.</li> <li>● All new or unusual terms are well-defined.</li> <li>● Information (names, facts, etc.) is accurate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Most words are chosen for their precise meanings.</li> <li>● Most of the content of the paper is relevant to the main line of argument; extraneous material is at a minimum.</li> <li>● Ideas are mostly developed in a natural order. It is not hard to understand what is being said.</li> <li>● Most new or unusual terms are well-defined.</li> <li>● Information (names, facts, etc.) is accurate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Words are not chosen for their precise meanings.</li> <li>● May be substantial extraneous material.</li> <li>● Ideas are not always developed in a natural order. It is sometimes difficult to identify the line of argument or to understand what is being said.</li> <li>● New or unusual terms are not well-defined.</li> <li>● Information (names, facts, etc.) is mostly accurate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Words are not chosen for their precise meanings.</li> <li>● Substantial extraneous material.</li> <li>● Ideas are not developed in a natural order. Premises do not fit together naturally and it is difficult to identify the line of argument or to understand what is being said.</li> <li>● New or unusual terms are not defined.</li> <li>● Information (names, facts, etc.) is inaccurate.</li> </ul>	10 points
	9-10 points	9-8 points	8-6 points	6-0 points	

Total Points Possible: 100

Each Short Paper will be worth 20% of your final grade

