Ethics in Society Honors Seminar

Philosophy 178/Ethics in Society 190

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Winter 2014-15

Course Overview:
The purpose of this class is to facilitate work toward the completion of an honor thesis. We focus on if and how political and ethical theories affect individual and institutional practices in the real world. The course begins with readings chosen by the instructor; the syllabus for subsequent weeks builds on the work of the students.

Course Requirements:
1. Class participation
It is absolutely crucial that you come to class having done the reading, prepared to talk and engage your fellow classmates. Participation includes active listening and speaking.

2. Writing
There are several required writing assignments. The first is to prepare a number of short 1-2 page documents identifying your thesis topic and then specifying multiple versions of your particular question. The second is a short paper (roughly 10 pages) that will be distributed to the entire class in preparation for a workshop on your thesis topic and question(s). The third and most important responsibility is a 20 page seminar paper (built from your initial assignment), due at the end of the quarter, which should make significant headway into your chosen topic for your honors thesis. The seminar paper may be revised, though doing so does not guarantee receiving a higher grade.

Late assignments will only be accepted if prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Grading:
Grades will be computed from the following:

1-2 page prospectus(es): [10%]

Seminar paper (20 pps): [50%] A substantial research paper on your honors thesis topic.

Short paper (10pps) [20%] Initial articulation of your thesis topic and question(s) for workshop discussion
Class participation: [20%] Adequate preparation, perceptive oral participation, and empathetic listening.

Readings:
All course readings are available online at the coursework website.

Students with documented disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone: 723-1066, 723-1067 TTY).

FERPA: Student Record Privacy Policy
http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/registrar/students/ferpa
Course Outline

Week 1 (Jan. 6):
Introduction and assignment of workshop dates

ASSIGNMENT: Write one or several 1-2 page prospectuses of your thesis.

Week 2 (Jan. 13):
Virtues and Vices of previous honors theses

Readings
• George Orwell, Politics and the English Language (1946).

Week 3 (Jan. 20):
Virtues and Vices of previous honors theses

Readings

Week 4 (Jan. 27):
Presentations by current seniors

Weeks 5-10:
Presentations by juniors