

E50.2015

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS
Gabriel Moran

FALL, 2006

COURSE PURPOSES:

- I. To examine the question of ethics in relation to professional life and professional people.
2. To study the historical evolution of the professional ideal: premodern, modern and "post-modern" forms.
3. To consider particular ethical issues in the professions: schoolteaching, nursing, health care, the arts - depending on the professional interests of the students

COURSE SEQUENCE:

Sept. 5: Introduction: Teaching-Learning Ethics

Sept. 12: Approach to Ethics (GM, ch.1; GM, Health Care; Sullivan)

Sept. 19: Fundamental Distinctions (GM, chap. 3; Reeck/Lifton; Sullivan)

Sept. 26: Functionalist Theory (JK, chap. 4, 5)

Oct. 3: Conflict Theory (JK, chap. 6; GM, **A**ustice**@**)

Oct. 10: Professional Ideal (JK chap. 11; Sullivan)

Oct. 17: Personal Morality (GM, chap 4;Scheffler)

Oct. 24: Corporate Morality (GM, chap. 5)

Oct. 31: Human/Nonhuman Morality (GM, chap. 6; Habgood))

Nov. 7: Truthfulness (GM, chap. 7;JK, chap 13; Moran, Truth...)

Nov. 14: Relative/Universal Morality (GM, chap. 8; Bonhoeffer)

Nov. 21: Historical Development of Professions (JK, chap 8; May)

Nov. 28: Structural Reform (JK, chap.9)

Dec. 5: Personal Reform (JK, chap. 14)

READING

I Readings that are indicated on the course outline

GM: Gabriel Moran, A Grammar of Responsibility. New York: Crossroad Press, 1996 (On line or copies provided)

JK: John Kultgen, Ethics and Professionalism. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1988.

II. Other essays will be provided or are available online at www.nyu.edu/classes/gmoran

III. A bibliography is available online

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

I. Presence and participation in class. I will expect you to be prepared to discuss the reading in each class.

II. There will be a written exercise at the beginning of each class. I will respond with written comments (but not with a grade) and return it the following class. File these exercises for future review. The final exam will be largely based on this weekly writing.

III. Paper:

Please submit the title or theme of the paper on Oct. 3. The first draft should be turned in on October 31. The more developed this first draft is, the more opportunity there is for helpful criticism. I will write evaluative comments without a grade and return it to you at the following class, Nov. 7. You may then revise it, as much as you wish, and re-submit it no later than Dec. 5.

Note: Since this is a course on professionalism the dates for the above submissions will be strictly applied..

Description of the paper:

1. The length can be whatever you need; 10-12 pages would probably do.
2. Choose as a focus for the paper one ethical issue in your profession (e.g. gender or racial bias, monitoring the practices of professionals, economic unfairness). Get as specific as you can: for example, over-billing in physical therapy, sampling in the recording industry, over-booking in the hotel industry, telling the truth to dying patients.
3. Work with ideas from the readings and class discussion. Include specific reference to responsibility and the meaning of professional.
4. Include bibliography
5. Use material from any source, including experience you have of the profession, conversation with other professionals or the written material of working professionals.
6. Draw some tentative conclusions from your material; can you suggest any improvements that can be made and should be made for a more ethical profession

IV. Oral Presentation:

Depending on the size of the class, all or some of the papers will be presented in class. I will ask for volunteers to present works in progress early in the semester and then have other students present finished papers later in the semester. The exact format will be determined after the composition of the class is complete.

V. Final Exam

The material will be a reworking of the 14 weekly exercises. The exact format of the exam is open to discussion

I am available for discussion of the paper or any problems. My office is in Kimball Hall, 316. Phone: 998-5652; E-mail: gm3@nyu.edu. A good time for me is usually before the class on Tuesday afternoon; other times can be arranged.