

**Ethics (833:524)**

**Spring 2006**

**Instructor: Harold Rubenstein**

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**Time/Location:** Tuesday 6:00-8:40 p.m. EJB Civic Square

**Course Description:** A critical examination of selected issues confronting public policy officials in the performance of their professional responsibilities. The primary focus will be on the normative and conceptual aspects of problems that arise for individuals and institutions functioning within a constitutional democracy.

**Readings:** Bovins, The Quest for Responsibility (QR)  
Dobel, Public Integrity (PI)  
Thompson, Restoring Responsibility (RR)  
Photoduplicated Materials (PM)

The books are available at the Rutgers Bookstore, Ferren Deck, New Brunswick. The photoduplicated materials (at a nominal charge) will be distributed in class or will be made available electronically through the Rutgers University library system.

**Course Requirements:** This course will be conducted as a seminar. All students are required to attend class, to complete the assigned readings prior to class, and to participate in class discussions. Grades will be determined by performance on the following:

- Critical analysis paper: A 3-4-page paper critically analyzing an assigned reading. This paper will be circulated to the members of the class for discussion. (20%)
- Case study: Preparation of an ethics case study or a critical review developed from a book read outside of class. The requirements for this assignment are attached to the syllabus. (35%)
- Final exam: Take-home final exam. (35%)
- Class participation: Quality, not quantity. (10%)

**Note: This syllabus is subject to change with notice.**

1. Introduction

LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" (PM)

2. Prudence

Machiavelli, The Prince (selections) (PM)

Dobel, "Political Prudence" (PI: 193-211)

Case Study: "The Supreme Court Justice Who Was Against Segregation" (PM)

3. Power

Dobel, "The Temptations of Power" (PI: 23-47)

Dobel, "The Political Morality of Sleaze and Honor" (PI: 135-146 only)

Case Study: "Clemency and Capital Punishment: Two Approaches" (PM)

4. Discretion

Dobel, "Integrity in Office" (PI: 1-22)

- Thompson, "Bureaucracy and Democracy" (RR: 50-61 only)  
Case Study: "Joseph Califano and Abortion Funding" (PM)
5. Secrecy  
Bok, "Secrets" (PM)  
Thompson, "Democratic Secrecy" (RR:129-142)  
Case Study: "Domestic Spying by the National Security Agency" (PM)
  6. Privacy  
Thompson, "Private Life and Public Office" (RR: 227-242)  
Dobel, "Saints, Sinners, and Politicians: How Private Lives Matter" (PI: 170-192)  
Case Study: "Out of the Closet and Out of Office" (PM)
  7. Conflicts  
Stark, "The Perils of Prophylactic Law" (PM)  
Dobel, "The Political Morality of Sleaze and Honor" (PI: 130-135)  
Thompson, "Mediated Corruption" (RR: 143-172)  
Case Study: "Scandal in Santa Clara County" (PM)
  8. Dirty Hands  
Walzer, "Political Action: The Problem of Dirty Hands" (PM)  
Thompson, "Democratic Dirty Hands" (PM)  
Thompson, "The Responsibility of Advisers" (RR: 33-49)  
Case Study: "Counseling Torture" (PM)
  9. Deception  
Bok, "Lies for the Public Good" (PM)  
Burke, "Lying and Leaking Information" (PM)  
Case Study: "Negotiating an End to the Vietnam War" (PM)
  10. Loyalty  
Dobel, "Staying In: The Ethics of Commitment in Office" (PI: 93-108)  
Bovens, "Virtue: Citizenship in Complex Organizations" (QR:157-175 only)  
Case Study: "Secretary of State Powell and Doubts About the Iraq War"
  11. Dissent  
Dobel, "Getting Out: The Ethics of Resigning from Office" (PI: 109-129)  
Bovens, "Exit: Resignation and Refusal" QR: 176-189)  
Case Study: "The Saturday Night Massacre" (PM)
  12. Disclosure  
Bovens, "Voice: Whistleblowing and Leaking" (QR:190-214)  
Thompson, "Restoring Distrust" (RR: 245-266; esp. 253-56)  
Case Study: "Mark Felt and the Watergate Disclosures" (PM)
  13. Accountability  
Thompson, "The Problem of Many Hands" (RR: 11-32)  
Bovens, "Corporate Responsibility: The Organization as a Person" (QR: 53-73)  
Case Study: "The Genocide Fax" and "The Chinese Embassy Bombing"(PM)

"To do good is noble, but to teach others how to be good is nobler, and no trouble." Mark Twain

