Political Science 304
Ethics and Public Policy
The Ethics of Torture, Death, and Deprivation

Professor Amadae
email: amadae.1@osu.edu
phone: 292-9986
2126 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall

Course Description: This is a course that will give students the basic knowledge of contemporary approaches to public policy evaluation. It reflects the economic-basis of many of the policy debates, and provides critical tools to evaluate the ethical implications of specific policy positions. After examining contrary views of the appropriate role of government, we will focus on five key public policy goals: efficiency, security, rights, welfare, and equity. Each domain of public policy initiative is discussed in terms of the contested issues of private property rights (eminent domain); appropriate costs for “the war on terror;” civil liberties and human rights (torture and enemy combatant status); social welfare (public medical care); and the value of a human life. This course is designed to lay a theoretical foundation for students who will go on to study law, public policy, and business.

Course Requirements

1. You must complete the readings in a timely fashion and participate actively in class discussions. To encourage you to prepare well for class, we will have a series of short, unannounced quizzes based on course readings. Together, these quizzes count for 30% of your grade.

2. You will write an in-class mid-term exam, and an in-class final exam. Their weights will be 30% and 40%, respectively.

Course Materials

Course readings for Political Science 304 are available online through Carmen.
Academic Honesty

All of the work that you do in this course is expected to be your own. Plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without citing them) and other forms of cheating will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disabilities

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Thursday, January 3


Tuesday, January 8


PART I: THE PROPER ROLE OF GOVERNMENT DEBATED

Thursday, January 10: Justice as Wealth-Maximization


Tuesday, January 15: Justice as Fairness


Thursday, January 17: Justice as Due-Process


Tuesday, January 22: Utilitarian vs. Deontological Justice


**PART II: EFFICIENCY**

Thursday, January 24: Understanding Efficiency

D. Stone, “Efficiency,” *Policy Paradox*, 61-85


Tuesday, January 29: Eminent Domain


Thursday, January 31: Eminent Domain & Midterm Review

No Readings

Tuesday, February 5

Midterm Examination Parts I & II

**PART III: SECURITY**
Thursday, February 7: The Ethics of Risk-Taking and Cost of Security


Tuesday, February 12: Continued


PART IV: RIGHTS

Thursday, February 14: Understanding Liberty


Tuesday, February 19: Torture, Due Process, “Enemy Combatant,” and the Geneva Convention


Thursday, February 21: Continued


PART V: WELFARE
Tuesday, February 26: Understanding Welfare


Thursday, February 28: Medical Access and Human Capabilities


**PART VI: EQUITY**

Tuesday March 4: Understanding Equity and the Value of a Human Life


Thursday, March 6: Continued


Final Review

**FINAL EXAMINATION: TIME AND LOCATION ACCORDING TO OSU REGISTRAR**