

SYLLABUS—LBST 2500: Ethics and Community Engagement **Winter 2022 online asynchronous**

Dr. Daniel Kolak
Email: kolakd@wpunj.edu

General Information

In every society, individuals must struggle with balancing their own rights and freedoms with their responsibilities towards others. Liberal Studies and Community Engagement explores the **ethical reasoning** needed to bring individuals together into a community that allows connection and reciprocity while respecting individuals' autonomy. This course covers topics in ethical theory involving individual rights, social justice and applied ethics, including strategies for engaging with ethical issues in the community and requires a civic engagement project in which ethical theory is applied.

Required books (both provided free, online, as pdf's). The easiest way to read them is you download them to your computer and open them as pdf files:

1. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* by James Rachels
2. *Practical Ethics* by Peter Singer

Course Objectives

In this course you will:

- Examine important historical and current views of ethics and responsible citizenship and illuminate the values and methods of problem-solving.
- Identify assumptions, goals, and principles in current and past debates about ethics and responsible citizenship.
- Distinguish arguments based on rights or ethical principles from arguments based on economic efficiency, social utility, and religious belief;
- Assess the effects of individual, government, community, and/or corporate decisions on human life, society, and the environment.

Grading

You will turn in **Assignments** by clicking "Turn In Assignments" and then clicking on the link for the Assignment you're turning in, and uploading the file. Each assignment will typically consist in you reading a book chapter or a lecture and then answer reading questions or writing reflective reviews of what you read. The Assignments are worth points each as marked.

Your grades on individual assignments will appear in the "Grade Center."

Getting Help with the Blackboard Software

If you are having trouble with the software, please click on the tab on the top of the screen that reads "Bb Support: Students" and follow the instructions that appear there.

Asking me questions about Assignments, Deadlines, Expectations, Etc.

Please **do not email me general questions about the class**. It is important for me to be able to share answers to general questions about the class with all students, and email isn't a good approach for that. **Instead, please post questions for me on the General Discussion Board**, which you can access by clicking "Discussion Board" on the left side of the screen. **Email me directly only if you have an individual question** about your research project, or if you need an extension on a deadline for a legitimate reason (e.g., medical excuse or emergency).

Late Work

You will not get points for any late assignments *without a documented medical excuse*. Please let me know IMMEDIATELY if you expect to miss any deadline. NOTE: You can always submit early.