Honors Senior Full Circle Seminar Spring 2013: HOPR 4953 902
“Doing Good”
Mondays 4-6:30 PM, David Straz Hall #456

Instructor: Dr. Alexandra Crampton, Ph.D.
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Description:
What does it mean to “do good” for oneself and for others? Are there universal values that transcend international and cultural differences so that a global ethic of a common good is possible? What happens when theory is put into practice, and social interventions result in complicated or unintended outcomes? The first part of this seminar examines the first two questions based on research and writings from the sciences and humanities. This includes scientific debate over whether altruism is a natural social behavior; cross cultural and historical comparisons of the good society, political and legal effort to impose global governance, philosophical search for universal standards to guide conflict and interaction in global contexts, and insights from neuroscience on how cultural values develop through interaction with larger social environments. This examination lays a foundation about what can (or should) be possible to then compare doing good in theory with studies of intervention work in practice. Topics include the U.S. welfare system, rights campaigns to help accused witches in Ghana, advocacy against international sex trafficking, and humanitarianism in India. In addition, students will lead a portion of class in the second half the semester on a doing good topic of their choice. Guest speakers will join discussion based on their work.

Objectives: By the end of the semester, the student should be able to:
- Understand scientific debate and research on altruism and whether we are ‘hard wired’ biologically or socialized universally to ‘do good.’
- Analyze philosophical debate on whether universal values can be identified and implemented globally in the context of a culturally diverse and ever changing world.
- Apply academic training from the student’s major discipline to an interdisciplinary discussion of doing good in theory and practice.
- Integrate academic and experiential knowledge of doing good through reflection on past experience and attendance at university events celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday and Mission Week.
- Compare theory and practice of doing good domestically and abroad.
- Critically analyze challenges of helping others or bringing social change in an area of interest to the student that also draws from course content.

Required Texts: Required books are available through the university bookstore and Sweeneys. In most cases, used copies can also be found cheaply online. When possible, library copies will be put on reserve. Ares password: Doing Good. Book chapters and articles will be provided in electronic copy through D2L under “Content.” Additional short readings may be given in class.
Required Books:

Sex at the Margins by Laura María Agustin ISBN: 978-1-84277-860-9

Schedule of Classes
The following is the intended schedule of readings and discussion. However, adjustments may be made if we need more time given the number of holidays and campus events.

January 14th: Course Introduction
Reading (in class) “To Hell with Good Intentions”

January 18th – no class meeting, MLK Day
Attend MLK week events [see note on holidays and participation]

January 28th Evolutionary Theory against Altruism: Life as Nasty, Brutish, and Short?
The Selfish Gene, preface, chapters 1-3 and chapters 11-13. (reading the whole book is recommended)
Discussion post 1 due by Monday 1/28 at 8 a.m.

February 4th Ethnographic Arguments for Social Hardwiring: Natural Niceness?
The Gift
Mission Week Event: Class field trip at 5 to meet Dr. Jo Lusi and Nadine Lusi of Heal Africa
Discussion post 2 due by Monday 2/4 at 8 a.m.

February 11th Philosophical Reflection on Universal Values amidst Global Diversity
Cosmopolitanism
Class field trip at 5 to watch “The Undocumented” presented by Marco Williams
Discussion post 3 due by Monday 2/11 at 8 a.m.

February 18th Neuroscience of Values as Result of Nature & Nurture
Brain and Culture, chapters 1-4
Discussion post 4 due by Monday 2/18 at 8 a.m.

February 25th Restorative Justice and Clergy Abuse in the Catholic Church
Brain and Culture, finish the book
Guest speaker: Janine Geske on the use of restorative justice to address clergy abuse in the Catholic Church
‘Doing Good’ project guidelines handed out
Discussion post 5 due by Monday 2/25 at 8 a.m.
March 4th

No class meeting but review session can be scheduled week of February 25th
You can also make an appointment to discuss ‘Doing Good’ project during office hours or class time
Mid Term exam due by 6:30 p.m. in D2L drop box

Note: Spring Break March 9-17

March 18th Universal Rights & Rationalities versus Cultural Relativism
Readings and radio clip on D2L: “A Mind Dismembered,” ‘No Country for Old Women,’ and “Imagined Profanities: Witches and Wards as People Out of Place,”
Discussion post 6 due by Monday 3/18 at 8 a.m.
Students sign up to present on ‘Doing Good’ project March 25-April 29

March 25th Theory versus Practice: The U.S. Welfare State
Readings on D2L: “The Anthropology of Trouble” and Chapters 1 & 2 from the book ‘That’s Not What We Meant to Do’
Discussion post 7 due Monday 3/25 by 8 a.m.

April 1st --- Easter Break [no class]

April 8th ‘The Rescue Industry’ & Sex Trafficking
Reading: Sex at the Margins
Discussion post 8 due by Monday 3/8 at 8 a.m.

April 15th Challenges of Co-optation: Whose Intervention is This, Any Way?
Readings on D2L: “The NGO Scramble” and “Culture as Cure”
Discussion post 9 due by Monday 4/15 at 8 a.m.

April 22nd Humanitarianism in India: Non-Western Practices of ‘Doing Good’
Reading: Disquieting Gifts, chapters 1-3
Discussion post 10 due by Monday, 4/22 at 8 a.m.

April 29th Humanitarianism continued & course wrap up
Reading: finish Disquieting Gifts
Articles about “Invisible Children” from Atlantic Monthly
Discussion post extra credit or make up due by Monday 4/29 at 8 a.m.

May 6th Final Exam
Final papers due in a D2L drop box by 5:30 p.m.

Course Requirements/Assignments:

Attendance: Preparation for and participation in this course are necessary in order to participate fully in the work of this course. Being prepared for class means having done the day’s reading at least once, taken notes, reflected on the material, completing a discussion post,
and coming to class with your book, along with a question or two you have in mind. Participation in this course means being actively engaged in it as a listener, speaker, and thinker. This class has only 13 scheduled meetings due to holidays and mid term week. Therefore, attendance is even more important. As you know, university policy allows professors to drop students who miss more than 2 weeks of class—this means 2 class sessions for this course. Please let me know if you will have to meet class, and contact a fellow student to make up what you missed. More information about MU’s attendance policy can be found at: http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#attendance

**Holiday and Mission Week Scheduling:** Since class is cancelled for MLK day, students are expected to attend at least one event related to “doing good” during the MLK Days of Engagement, Mission Week or another suitable event. Check with me before you pick a substitute event. You will then bring what you learned/experienced into class discussion. Attendance at these events is factored into your class participation grade. For event schedules:

**MLK Days of Engagement events January 22nd-25th:**
http://www.marquette.edu/osd/intercultural/mlk.shtml

**Mission Week Events February 4th – 8th**
http://www.marquette.edu/missionweek-2013/

**Discussion Posts:** Discussion posts will ensure timely reading of assignments, preparation for discussion, and initial feedback for me to use in preparing for class. Discussion post prompts will help guide your reading. You are expected to answer all questions in a response that is at least 200 words by 8 a.m. the day of class discussion. Late or incomplete posts will not receive full credit.

**Mid Term Exam Paper:** The mid term exam paper will consist of short essay questions posted through a D2L drop box by Friday, March 1st.

**‘Doing Good’ Project:** Students can work alone or in pairs. Complete guidelines will be handed out on February 25th. As an overview, here are the two options:

A. An academic research project for digging into questions and concepts from readings, class discussion, or guest speakers. For example, examining the work of Peter Singer [introduced in the Appiah book], examining research on mirror neurons [as raised in the Wexler book], or additional applications of the restorative justice process Janine Geske will explain. You may also want to connect course content to your disciplinary training.

B. An action-reflection project. Reflect on your past efforts to “do good” – such as in service learning, other volunteer work – or get involved in an issue or with an organization during the semester. Identify what readings resonate with your experience and/or whether your experience challenges arguments about how doing good is possible in practice.

**Final Exam Paper:** The final exam will consist of short essay questions posted through D2L and due in a drop box by Monday, May 6th by 5:30 p.m.
Grading

Class participation: 10%
Discussion posts: 20%

Doing Good project: 15-40%
Mid Term Paper: 15-40%
Final Paper: 15-40%

There is some flexibility for the weighting of each assignment. The total must be 70% of your final grade. So, if you prefer to get the bulk of your grade determined by mid semester, choose to have the mid term paper count 40%. If you take awhile to warm up and sort out your thoughts, perhaps you’d rather weight the final paper as 40%. Finally, if you are better at presenting information than writing, you may want the doing good project to be 40% [although a short reflection paper will be part of that assignment].

Let me know at the beginning of the second class how you want assignments weighted. Otherwise, the assignments will be as follows:
Doing Good project: 25%
Mid Term Paper: 25%
Final Paper: 20%

Grading Scale:

94-100 = A  83-87 = B  73-77 = C  60-67 = D
88-93 = AB  78-82 = BC  68-72 = CD  Below 60 = F

Academic Honesty: Please familiarize yourself with the University's academic honesty policy. It will be strongly enforced in this course. The complete statement of policy is available at: http://www.marquette.edu/mucentral/registrar/policy_honesty.shtml

Accommodation: Please let me know as soon as possible if you need accommodation as documented by the Disabilities Office.