LASE 151: Honor & Ethics in Everyday Life
Spring 2005
Wednesday
Sections 4-6: 2:00 – 2:50
Sections 1-3: 3:00 – 3:50
Trial Room and Pavilions

Faculty/Facilitators:

Instructor:
Patricia M. Lampkin, Vice President for Student Affairs

TAs/Advisors:
Nicole Eramo  eramo@virginia.edu
Marsh Pattie  jmpattie@virginia.edu

Facilitators:
2pm Session – Marsh Pattie
Brent Evans (brentevans) and Nicole Eickoff (rayrayuva)  Pavilion I
Stewart Ackerly (sha3q) and Kelly Daneilka (danielka)  Monroe Hill Library
Akeel Williams (arw3p) and Gretchen Goodrich (gmg2b)  Pavilion V

3pm Session – Nicole Eramo
Kim Morris (km2zg) and Aubrey Hale (ah9v)  Pavilion I
Lucy Kupersmith (lbk5x) and Cameron Blair (mcb6r)  Pavilion V

Description:
This one credit course will introduce students to the philosophy and mechanics of the Honor System. It will focus on the concepts of ethics and integrity within the context of both the Honor System/Committee and the broader University community. The course shall also challenge students to think about ethical living and decision making beyond the college environment. Through small group discussions, case studies, guest speakers, films, and recent articles, students will examine the role of ethics and integrity in their daily activities and interactions. The course is also intended to provide a forum for open and frank discussion about the place of honor both in our University community and the world beyond. All students are expected to encourage and maintain an open, honest, and respectful environment for discussion.

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation (34 points): Students are required to attend each class meeting. Some meetings will include the entire class, and others will be held with smaller groups and two-three facilitators. More than one unexcused absence will result in the loss of all attendance points. If you must miss class due to an emergency, you should e-mail your facilitator and TA as soon as possible. Arriving to class frequently or excessively late may also be considered an absence.

Active participation is also expected of each student. Discussions, case studies, and group projects will afford plenty of opportunities for involvement.

Reflection Papers (33 points): Over the course of the semester, you will be exposed to a variety of people and situations. At times you may discover that you have strong feelings about a particular point of view or concept. For example, you might strongly agree or disagree with the view of a guest speaker or classmate. The reflection papers are an opportunity for you to put into words any thoughts and/or ideas you have regarding an aspect of the class that you find interesting. You may write about a specific case study, ethical dilemma, guest speaker, class discussion, or contemporary ethical issue. You have a great deal of
freedom with this assignment, so be creative. There will be two reflection papers due (see schedule below). Each should be approximately 1-2 pages in length. The papers will be evaluated by your small group facilitators and the TAs. Anything you write will be held in strict confidence. A scale of √+ through √- will be used to grade your work. Papers with a grade of √- will require a re-write in order to pass.

**Final Project (33 points):** The final project is intended to provide you with an opportunity to further explore ethical issues and dilemmas. In groups of five or less, you may choose between two options:

**Option 1:** You will build a basic framework for an institution of higher education (number of students, public/private, liberal arts/research university, etc.) and create for it an Honor System or general Student Code of Conduct. You will perform a skit or create an educational video of approximately 7-10 minutes in length to introduce outsiders to the code at your institution. This skit/video should touch upon the core concepts of the code and your institution. Please note that you need not limit your focus to honor systems, but may explore student codes of conduct in general (IE: discipline policy, alcohol, drugs, etc). Information will be provided in class regarding AV equipment and expectations. Feel free to be creative!!

**Option 2:** You will explore an ethical issue or dilemma that is particularly salient in contemporary society. The issue need not be one explored in class. Your group will research this issue from different ethical perspectives. You will need to present your research to the class in the form of a 7-10 minute skit or video. Please note that we expect you to be creative with this assignment. You may use whatever forum you wish in order to present your issue/dilemma. Examples might include a news broadcast, live-action drama, court trial, or press conference (where members of your group pose as fictitious political figures). A court trial, for example, might provide you with the opportunity to invite audience participation. For instance, you could put a person on trial (character from a film/book, real-life political figure, or other controversial person with whom the class would be familiar), argue a case for and against him/her, and have the class act as jury. Be creative and have fun!

**All videos and skits are due on APRIL 7TH.** Presentations will occur on April 21st and April 28th. We will discuss the project in greater depth later in the semester.**

***Note: This is a pass/fail course. You must earn at least 70 points in order to pass.***

**Class Schedule:**

January 19  Large group meeting (Trial Room, Newcomb Hall Rm. 480)
            Introductions and class discussion.
            Sample final project.
            Hand out Honor System informational brochure

January 26  Large group meeting (Trial Room)
            **Assignment:** Submit one question to one of the TAs regarding the Honor System. This question will be passed along to the Honor participants anonymously and will be answered during the session, if time allows.
            Guest Speaker(s) 1: Honor Committee members and support officers.
            Discuss perceptions, preconceptions, misconceptions, and procedures related to the Honor System
            Divide into small-group sections

February 2  Small group sections (Pavilions)
            **Topic 1:** Honor and ethics in student life.
            Discussion of mini-case studies.
            Vote on topics for small group sections
            Hand-out readings for the following week.
February 9  Small group sections (Pavilions)
  **Assignment:** Read “What is Ethics?” and “Everyday Ethics” by Thomas Shanks. Choose a particularly compelling ethical issue from a recent movie you have seen. Be prepared to discuss your choice with the class.
  
  **Topic 2: What do we mean when we talk about ethics?**
  Discuss possible definitions of ethics, morality, and integrity
  Discuss movie choice.
  
  **Divide into final project groups (five students per group)**

February 16  Small group sections (Pavilions)
  **Assignment:** View the film *Wall Street* with discussion questions.
  **(Group Showing: Clemons, Room 322 A, 6-8:30pm)**
  **Topic 3: Wall Street: A Case Study in Ethical Decision Making**

February 23  Large group meeting (Trial Room)
  Guest Speaker 2: Patricia M. Lampkin, Vice President for Student Affairs, UVA
  **Assignment:** In-class Case Study Competition
  **Paper 1 due**

March 2  Small group sections (Pavilions)
  **Assignment:** TBA
  **Topic 4: TBA**

March 9  Spring Break
  No Class

March 16  Large group meeting (Trial Room)
  Guest Speaker 3: Robert Bell, Delegate, Virginia General Assembly
  **Assignment:** TBA

March 23  Project Work Day
  Meet in small groups in the Pavilions to work on the group project.
  (Pavilion V group meet in the Trial Room this week)

March 30  Small group meeting (Pavilions)
  **Assignment:** TBA
  **Topic 5: TBA**
  **Draft Scenarios and/or Scripts due.**

April 6  Small group sections (Pavilions)
  **Assignment:** TBA
  **Topic 6: TBA**
  **Paper 2 Due**

April 13  Large group meeting (Trial Room)
  Guest Speaker 4: Professor Farzaneh Milani, Professor of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Studies of Women and Gender
  **Assignment:** TBA
  **Final Project Due**

April 20  Large Group meeting (Trial Room)
  **Project Presentations**
Class Choice Sessions - Topic Ideas:

- Honor systems at other colleges/universities (William & Mary, VMI, Virginia Tech, Duke, Wake Forest, University of Maryland, etc)
- Ethics in advertising
- Political ethics
- Ethics and corporate America.
- Ethics and personal relationships.
- Legal ethics
- The ethics of reality TV.
- Race and ethnicity.
- Bio-ethics
- Social expectations/pressures
- Ethics in college vs. ethics in the real world: Is there a difference?
- Plagiarism
- The role of psychological hearings in the Honor System
- Ethics and technology.
- Terrorism.
- Ethics in Greek life.
- Environmental ethics
- Ethics and spirituality
- Others?