

Ethics and the Professional Context of Teaching

[ESPHE 4403] [Class Number 22942] [Summer 2022]

Course Information

- **Course times and location:** Asynchronous Carmen
- **Credit hours:** 3
- **Mode of delivery:** Online

Instructor

- **Name:** Spencer J Smith
- **Office hours:** By appointment. Just let me know if you need to meet!
- **Preferred means of communication:**
 - My preferred method of communication for questions is **email**.
 - My class-wide communications will be sent through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check your [notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to be sure you receive these messages.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Description

In this course, we think about the ethics of teaching in all of its contexts. We will use the work of educational ethicists to think and deliberate about some of the trickier ethical questions in classrooms today including questions of student discipline, curriculum, and teacher speech among other issues.



Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should successfully be able to:

- Identify the complex web of interconnected ethical issues present in educational contexts.
- Be capable of articulating the competing aims of education as it pertains to students, parents, teachers, and the local and global community.
- Articulate and use a road map for understanding and approaching ethical issues in the classroom. A philosophical exploration of the moral complexities of teaching which includes:
 - identifying ethical issues in professional contexts of teaching;
 - determining the empirical evidence required for solutions to these issues;
 - presenting appropriately rigorous argumentation in support of ethical responses;
 - responding to critiques of their arguments and evaluations; and
 - successfully navigating the ethically complex professional context of teaching.
- Ask difficult questions of themselves about the complex institution of schooling and education.



How This Course Works

Participation requirements: Research shows regular participation is one of the highest predictors of success. With that in mind, I have the following expectations for everyone's participation:

- By FRIDAY of each week, you need to respond to all the weekly discussion boards on Carmen. You must also respond to at least one of your peers' posts by SUNDAY. Details about these posts are in the Assignments section. On the week of 5/30-6/3, your discussion post will be due on WEDNESDAY and the response to peers by FRIDAY.



Course Materials, Fees and Technologies

Required Materials and/or Technologies

Levinson, M., & Fay, J. (Eds.). (2019). *Democratic discord in schools: Cases and commentaries in educational ethics*. Harvard Education Press.

Levinson, M., & Fay, J. (Eds.). (2016). *Dilemmas of educational ethics: Cases and commentaries*. Harvard Education Press.

All of our other course texts are posted on our Carmen site.

Required Equipment

- **Computer:** current Mac (MacOS) or PC (Windows 10) with high-speed internet connection
- **Other:** a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication

If you do not have access to the technology you need to succeed in this class, review options for technology and internet access at go.osu.edu/student-tech-access.

Required Software

Microsoft 365: All Ohio State students are now eligible for free Microsoft 365. Visit the [installing Microsoft 365](https://go.osu.edu/office365help) (go.osu.edu/office365help) help article for full instructions.

CarmenCanvas Access

You will need to use [BuckeyePass](https://buckeyepass.osu.edu) (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you do each of the following:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the [BuckeyePass - Adding a Device](https://go.osu.edu/add-device) (go.osu.edu/add-device) help article for step-by-step instructions.
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click **Enter a Passcode** and then click the **Text me new codes** button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- [Install the Duo Mobile application](https://go.osu.edu/install-duo) (go.osu.edu/install-duo) on all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service.

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.

Technology Skills Needed for This Course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
- [Navigating CarmenCanvas](https://go.osu.edu/canvasstudent) (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)

Technology Support

For help with your password, university email, CarmenCanvas, or any other technology issues, questions or requests, contact the IT Service Desk, which offers 24-hour support, seven days a week.

- **Self Service and Chat:** go.osu.edu/it
- **Phone:** [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357)
- **Email:** servicedesk@osu.edu

Grading and Faculty Response

How Your Grade is Calculated

| Assignment Category | Points |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Discussion Posts and Responses | 20 points for Initial Post, 20 for Reply; 6 times – 240 points total |
| Ethical Teacher Final Paper | 60 points |
| Total | 300 points |

See [Course Schedule](#) for due dates.

Descriptions of Major Course Assignments

All assignments will be submitted via Carmen.

Discussion Posts and Responses – 6 x 40 points throughout course

Description: We will be learning ethics in educational contexts through case studies. For each case study we read, students are expected to submit an original 250-word discussion post as well as a 150-word response to a peer's original post.

Academic integrity and collaboration: The discussion posts are very important. All work in the discussion post should be your own original work. Be sure to talk about the relevant texts in each discussion post. **Original posts for the week's discussion posts are due each week on Friday at 11:59 PM. And responses are due each week on Sunday at 11:59 PM.** On Week 4 (the week of 5/29), post original discussion posts by Wednesday (6/1) at 11:59 PM and respond to peers by Friday (6/3) at 11:59 PM.

What is an Ethical Educator? Assignment: Due Jun. 3 @ 11:59pm – 60 Points

Description: Write a 1000-1500 word statement addressing the following questions:

- Using the different ethical case studies and commentaries, what is the responsibility of an educator to their students? To the community? To the content?
- Using the different ethical case studies and commentaries, what are some potential ethical dilemmas an educator might encounter?
- What are some ways an educator can solve ethical issues in the classroom?
- What is an ethical dilemma you are particularly worried about? Using the case studies and commentaries, what are some strategies for solving that dilemma?

Academic integrity and collaboration: This essay should be your own original work. When you cite research or other texts, you should cite in APA format. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.

Late Assignments

Please refer to Carmen for due dates. Due dates are set to help you stay on pace and to allow timely feedback that will help you complete subsequent assignments.

Instructor Feedback and Response Time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. Remember that you can call [614-688-4357 \(HELP\)](tel:614-688-4357) at any time if you have a technical problem.

- **Preferred contact method:** If you have a question, please contact me first through my Ohio State email address. I will reply to emails within **24 hours on days when class is in session at the university**.
- **Class announcements:** I will send all important class-wide messages through the Announcements tool in CarmenCanvas. Please check [your notification preferences](https://go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) (go.osu.edu/canvas-notifications) to ensure you receive these messages.
- **Grading and feedback:** For assignments submitted before the due date, I will try to provide feedback and grades within **seven days**. Assignments submitted after the due date may have reduced feedback, and grades may take longer to be posted.

Grading Scale

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 291-300 | 269-290 | 260-268 | 248-259 | 239-247 | 230-238 | 218-229 | 209-217 | 200-208 | 194-200 |

Other Course Policies

Discussion and Communication Guidelines

[Example: The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to write in your journal as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** Let's maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm doesn't always come across online. I will provide specific guidance for discussions on controversial or personal topics.
- **Citing your sources:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For course materials, list at least the author and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.
- **Backing up your work:** Consider composing your academic posts in a word processor, where you can save your work. Then copy into the Carmen discussion..

Academic Integrity Policy

See [Descriptions of Major Course Assignments](#) for specific guidelines about collaboration and academic integrity in the context of this online class.

Ohio State's Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the university's [Code of Student Conduct](#) (studentconduct.osu.edu), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the university's *Code of Student Conduct* and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's *Code of Student Conduct* (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the university or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the university's *Code of Student Conduct* is never considered an excuse for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the *Code of Student Conduct* and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.



If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by university rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the university's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- [Committee on Academic Misconduct](http://go.osu.edu/coam) (go.osu.edu/coam)
- [Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions) (go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions)
- [Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity](http://go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules) (go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules)

Plagiarism Policy

As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is “the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas.”

Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the Internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not his or her own and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple. Always cite your sources. Always ask questions before you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism. Always see your instructor if you are having difficulty with an assignment. To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning and to maintain your own integrity and to avoid jeopardizing your future, do not plagiarize.

Important note: To avoid plagiarism, it is very important to cite when you are borrowing someone else’s ideas. There are three circumstances when you should provide a citation:

- 1) When you are listing a direct quotation
- 2) When you are paraphrasing – not using a direct quotation, but still borrowing or rewording someone else’s idea
- 3) When you are using an idea that isn’t common knowledge (i.e., it’s not something that most of your classmates would know). An example: Potassium is not one of the chief exports of the country of Kazakhstan (CIA World Factbook, 2010).

There are a variety of citation styles used in the academic world. Most people in the social sciences, including the field of education, use APA format – the format prescribed by the American Psychological Association. History and Philosophy fields use Chicago format. For this class, I will accept either APA or Chicago.

WHEN IN DOUBT, YOU SHOULD CITE IT!

Copyright for Instructional Materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Statement of Student Rights

I will try to be sensitive to a range of diverse learning styles. Please come to see me if you are having trouble understanding the course material. In addition, accommodations will be made for any student with a documented disability. Please inform me as early in the semester as possible to receive effective and timely accommodations. The Office of Disability Services is relied upon for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. Please contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 (V) or 614-292-0901 (TDD) in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>. Students will be expected to follow the Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines for access to technology.

Grievances and Solving Problems

According to University Policies, available from the Division of Student Affairs, if you have a problem with this class, “you should seek to resolve a grievance concerning a grade or academic practice by speaking first with the instructor or professor: Then, if necessary, with the department chairperson, college dean, and provost, in that order. Specific procedures are outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-7-23, which is available from the Office of Student Life, 208 Ohio Union.”

“Grievances against graduate, research, and teaching assistants should be submitted first to the supervising instructor, then to the chairperson of the assistant’s department.”

Statement about Diversity

The College of Education and Human Ecology affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct

The Ohio State University is committed to building and maintaining a community to reflect diversity and to improve opportunities for all. All Buckeyes have the right to be free from harassment, discrimination, and sexual misconduct. Ohio State does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, pregnancy (childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy, or recovery therefrom), race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, academic programs, admission, and employment. Members of the university community also have the right to be free from all forms of sexual misconduct: sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, and sexual exploitation.

To report harassment, discrimination, sexual misconduct, or retaliation and/or seek confidential and non-confidential resources and supportive measures, contact the Office of Institutional Equity:

1. Online reporting form at equity.osu.edu,
2. Call 614-247-5838 or TTY 614-688-8605,
3. Or email equity@osu.edu

The university is committed to stopping sexual misconduct, preventing its recurrence, eliminating any hostile environment, and remedying its discriminatory effects. All university employees have reporting responsibilities to the Office of Institutional Equity to ensure the university can take appropriate action:

- All university employees, except those exempted by legal privilege of confidentiality or expressly identified as a confidential reporter, have an obligation to report incidents of sexual assault immediately.
- The following employees have an obligation to report all other forms of sexual misconduct as soon as practicable but at most within five workdays of becoming aware of such information: 1. Any human resource professional (HRP); 2. Anyone who supervises faculty, staff, students, or volunteers; 3. Chair/director; and 4. Faculty member.

Statement on Title IX

All students and employees at Ohio State have the right to work and learn in an environment free from harassment and discrimination based on sex or gender, and the university can arrange interim measures, provide support resources, and explain investigation options, including referral to confidential resources.

If you or someone you know has been harassed or discriminated against based on your sex or gender, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, relationship violence, stalking, or sexual exploitation, you may find information about your rights and options on Ohio State's Title IX website (titleix.osu.edu) or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleix@osu.edu. Title IX is part of the Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) at Ohio State, which responds to all bias-motivated incidents of harassment and discrimination, such as race, religion, national origin and disability. For more information, visit the OIE website (equity.osu.edu) or email equity@osu.edu.

Your Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. No matter where you are engaged in distance learning, The Ohio State University's Student Life Counseling and Consultation Service (CCS) is here to support you. If you find yourself feeling isolated, anxious or overwhelmed, [on-demand mental health resources](http://go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) (go.osu.edu/ccsondemand) are available. You can reach an on-call counselor when CCS is closed at [614- 292-5766](tel:614-292-5766). **24-hour emergency help** is available through the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline website](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org) (suicidepreventionlifeline.org) or by calling [1-800-273-8255\(TALK\)](tel:1-800-273-8255). [The Ohio State Wellness app](http://go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) (go.osu.edu/wellnessapp) is also a great resource.

Accessibility Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Requesting Accommodations

The university strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions, please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with [Student Life Disability Services \(SLDS\)](#). After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. In light of the current pandemic, students seeking to request COVID-related accommodations may do so through the university's request process, managed by Student Life Disability Services.

Disability Services Contact Information

- Phone: [614-292-3307](tel:614-292-3307)
- Website: slds.osu.edu
- Email: slds@osu.edu
- In person: [Baker Hall 098, 113 W. 12th Avenue](#)

Accessibility of Course Technology

This online course requires use of CarmenCanvas (Ohio State's learning management system) and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations as early as possible.

- [CarmenCanvas accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/canvas-accessibility)
- Streaming audio and video
- [CarmenZoom accessibility](http://go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility) (go.osu.edu/zoom-accessibility)

Course Schedule

Refer to the CarmenCanvas course for up-to-date due dates.



| Week | Dates | Points | Topics, Readings, Assignments, Due Dates |
|------|-----------|--------|--|
| 1 | 5/10-5/15 | 40 | <p>Introduction and Thinking Ethically</p> <p>Brighouse, Loeb, Ladd, & Swift (2016); Jencks (1988); “Promotion or Retention?” in <i>Dilemmas</i> (Read case & commentaries)</p> <p>Complete “Promotion or Retention” Discussion Post by Friday (5/13) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Respond to a peer by Sunday (5/15) at 11:59 PM</p> |
| 2 | 5/16-5/22 | 80 | <p>Student Discipline</p> <p>“Stolen Trust” in <i>Dilemmas</i> (Read case & commentaries); “Eyes in the Back of Their Heads 2.0” in <i>Democratic Discord</i> (Read case & commentaries)</p> <p>Complete “Stolen Trust” Discussion Post by Friday (5/20) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Complete “Eyes in the Back of Their Hands” Discussion Post by Friday (5/20) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Respond to a peer on each Discussion Board by Sunday (5/22) at 11:59 PM</p> |
| 3 | 5/23-5/30 | 80 | <p>Curriculum</p> <p>“Politics, Partisanship, and Pedagogy” in <i>Democratic Discord</i> (Read case & commentaries); “Bending Toward—Or Away From—Racial Justice?” in <i>Democratic Discord</i> (Read case & commentaries)</p> <p>Complete “Politics, Partisanship” Discussion Post by Friday (5/28) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Complete “Bending Toward...” Discussion Post by Friday (5/28) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Respond to a peer on each Discussion Board by Sunday (5/30) at 11:59 PM</p> |
| 4 | 5/31-6/3 | 100 | <p>The Ethical Teacher</p> <p>Read “Talking Out of Turn” in <i>Democratic Discord</i> (Read case & commentaries)</p> <p>Complete “Talking Out of Turn” Discussion Post by Wednesday (6/1) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Respond to a peer on Discussion Board by Friday (6/3) at 11:59 PM</p> <p>Due: “What Is an Ethical Educator?” essay – 6/3 at 11:59 PM</p> |

