

Do I Dare? Legal and Ethics Considerations for Artists **Spring 2007**

Instructor - Barbara DeGenevieve and Michael Dorf

Subjects to be covered:

"Harm" to the body — one's own and others; the meaning of consent; ethical criticism of art; identity politics - race, gender; Self and the Other; victim mentality, master/slave; amateur science, bioethics; Can't cross that line — Holocaust, 9/11, terrorism, bombs; cultural differences, moral consequences — Muhammad cartoons, Theo Van Gough's film; ethics of the internet (Leung, Craig's list, Web Affairs); civil disobedience; ethical speech and representation; humor — how can it be used; is it context or intent that is most important?; artist responsibility; subjectivity and agency; the ethical vs. the legal — legal vs. ethical; pornography; and animals.

Schedule:

The syllabus is flexible and subject to change – expect readings, field trips, and guest presentations to be added throughout the semester. Always come to class prepared to work.

January 25 - March 1: Historical overview of the evolution (of the idea) of ethics

Week 1 - January 25:

Butler interview
Screen: *Assisted Living*

Week 2 - February 1:

Slides/video
Readings: Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus (pp. 1-58)

Week 3 - February 8:

Slides/video
Readings: Mencius, Hsun Tzu, Chuang Tzu (pp. 59-92)

Week 4 - February 15:

Slides/video
Readings: Hume, Kant (pp. 149-180)

Week 5 - February 22:

Slides/video

Readings: Kierkegaard, Mill, Nietzsche (pp. 181-230)

Week 6 - March 1:

Civil disobedience and natural law

Slides/video

Readings: *On Liberty* (Mill)

March 8 - April 12: Contemporary legal cases relevant to artists

Week 7 - March 8:

First Amendment, NEA

Slides/video

Assignment: Proposal for Final Paper due

Week 8 - March 15:

Property, copyright, public domain, privacy

Slides/video

Week 9 - March 22:

SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)

Week 10 - March 29:

Patron/Sovereign

Slides/video

Assignment: First draft of Final Paper due

Week 11 - April 5:

Protecting Self and Others, Model releases/permission/ownership, contracts

Slides/video

April 19 - May 10: Ethical issues in Contemporary Art

Week 12 - April 12:

Stolen art, fair use

Slides/video

Week 13 - April 19:

Pornography, internet, COPA, children
Slides/video

Week 14 - April 26:

Body modification/"harm," animals
Slides/video

Week 15 - May 3:

Someone is always taking offense: the Holocaust, 9/11, identity politics, political correctness, Muhammad and Islam; terrorism, bombs, amateur science; self-censorship
Slides/video

Week 15 - May 10:

Wrap-up discussion: Does censorship really affect artists?
Do artists have to be ethical?
Assignment: Final Paper due