**Senior Seminar**

Communication and Media Ethics Paper (Dr. Holba, CM4900)

due **Sunday April 13, 2014 by 5:00pm**

Contemporary communication ethics scholars, Ronald C. Arnett, Leeanne Bell, and Janie Harden Fritz, authors of the article “Dialogic Learning as First Principle in Communication Ethics” point out what they think is necessary to navigate the public terrain in our current historical moment. They advocate a new kind of dialogic theory that can be applied to both public and private domains of engagement. This assignment focuses on the public domain and will ask you to apply their theory and conduct a speculative evaluation/engagement of a contemporary public issue.

You can select from two different national public disagreements and do the following after investigating the circumstances as best as you can using public documents and the internet:

* Summarize the circumstances;
* Clearly identify the main focal points of contention;
* Identify the parties involved and their respective “goods”;
* Identify the downfall (where did communication go wrong and what was the outcome or consequence(s));
* Summarize the Arnett, Bell, and Fritz article;
* Apply the argument/main point of the dialogic learning theory article to the problem;
* Once applied, make sure to explain, elaborate, exemplify, and project a different kind of outcome/consequence(s)
* Include correct and clear application/discussion of the article, (2012) “Biopolitics: An Arendtian Communication Ethic in the Public Domain” (Arnett) from *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 9(2), 225-233.

Select one of these Public Domain Issues:

**Issue 1**: Anthony Bosch’s argument in support of doping and ARod’s suspension - The following is a list of sources (and there are many more!) involving the suspension of ARod (Alex Rodriguez) for alleged doping. Included in the links are a variety of video clips of Anthony Bosch, the founder of biogenesis who contributed to ARod’s doping and who contends that doping is a natural (yet invisible) part of professional sports and justifies this due to the “abusive” conditions under which they train and play, at the charge of team owners, coaches and fans (this is what he implies in his 60 minutes interview – excerpts below)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/12/sports/baseball/arbitrators-ruling-banishes-the-yankees-alex-rodriguez-for-a-season.html?_r=0>

<http://thebiglead.com/2014/01/12/60-minutes-piece-with-anthony-bosch-included-claims-of-death-threats-detailed-a-rods-alleged-use-of-gummies/>

<http://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video;_ylt=A0oG7mzRKtRSFFIA3T1XNyoA;_ylu=X3oDMTB0NjQ4MTRnBHNlYwNzYwRjb2xvA2FjMgR2dGlkA1ZJUDM0OF8x?p=youtube+anthony+bosch> (this is a collection of youtube videos that involve Anthony Bosch, founder of Biogenesis)

**Issue 2**: Should a state determine outcomes for medical disputes? Should a state, or when should a state decide when to turn off life support?

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Oakland-8th-Grader-Brain-Dead-After-236015681.html>

<http://sacramento.cbslocal.com/2013/12/15/girl-is-brain-dead-after-surgery-to-remove-tonsils/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/09/us-usa-braindead-california-idUSBREA0806F20140109?feedType=RSS>

**RUBRIC for the paper:**

\_\_\_\_ 5pts Spelling

\_\_\_\_ 5pts Grammar

\_\_\_\_ 20pts Organization of the paper (has an introduction, a conclusion, each paragraph has a topic sentence, the topic sentences make an argument and so on)

\_\_\_\_ 10pts Demonstrates an understanding of dialogic learning theory

\_\_\_\_ 10pts Demonstrates an understanding of the issues and identifies the “goods” involved

\_\_\_\_ 10pts As the situations have been resolved to date, identifies and explains the ethical lens with which the situation has been resolved (at least up to this date of review)

\_\_\_\_ 30pts Thoroughly answers and explains each question above.

\_\_\_\_\_10pts Correctly and clearly apply the Arnett *BioPolitics* article (in Moodle).