

**POL 469S/POL 2226S**  
**Ethics and International Relations: Research Seminar**

Winter 2011  
Trinity College 24, Monday 12-2

Professor Nancy Bertoldi  
Sidney Smith Hall, Room 3123; Phone: 946-0141  
Office Hours: Friday 10-12

**DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE**

The seminar explores the possibilities for and requirements of ethical action in international affairs. It is common to study international relations in terms of interests and power, but in actual practice, important actors invoke normative language all the time in their international interactions. This has not gone unnoticed, with investigations of ethics in the international arena multiplying in recent years. Drawing on readings from normative international relations theory and political philosophy, the course takes up ethical dilemmas encountered in world affairs in the context of debates about human rights, intervention, development, and international institutions. Students are expected to write a major research paper on an approved topic related to the course.

**READINGS**

The following reading materials will be used in the course:

- 1) Terry Nardin and David Mapel, *Traditions of International Ethics*, (Cambridge, 1993)
- 2) Charles Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Princeton, 1999)
- 3) John Rawls, *Justice As Fairness*, (Harvard, 2001)
- 4) John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*, (Harvard, 1999)
- 5) Peter Singer, *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Yale, 2004)
- 6) Course Reader (containing reading assignments not included in the books)

The books can be purchased at the U of T Bookstore, located at 214 College Street. The course reader can be purchased at the T&T Copy Centre, located at 333 Bloor Street. The books will also be available on short-term loan at Trinity College and Robarts Libraries.

**FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS**

The course will meet for two hours of seminar discussion per week, with additional hours scheduled for the week of student presentations if needed on the basis of enrolment.

Performance will be evaluated on the basis of the following components:

Summaries	20%
Proposal	10%
Research Paper	40%
Presentation	10%
Participation	20%

Seminar participation (20%) will be assessed on the basis of the extent and quality of student contributions to seminar discussions on an ongoing basis. Adequate preparation is essential.

Several 1-page reading summaries (20% total) will be assigned and marked on an ongoing basis. The exact number of reading summaries assigned will depend on enrolment. A hard copy of the summary must be submitted at the instructor's office on Fridays at noon before the class they are for. Students will also be expected to post their summaries on blackboard.

The research paper (40%) will involve the preparation of a 20-page study of an approved topic of relevance to the course. For approval, students will submit a research proposal (10%) consisting of a 2-page description of their topic accompanied by a detailed bibliography. It is essential to start working on the proposal early. Students will also make a 5-minute class presentation on their research findings, accompanied by a 2-page handout that will be distributed to the class (10%). Students are expected to work closely with the instructor in all stages of their research.

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Jan 22	Last day to add course
Feb 7	Proposal due
Mar 13	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
Mar 21	Research Paper due
Apr 4	Student Presentations
Apr 29	Last day to file a petition regarding term work

### **COURSE RULES AND POLICIES**

Extensions and make-ups: No extensions will be granted on term work, unless students have serious reasons beyond their control that are adequately documented—for example, a medical reason supported by a ROSI absence declaration AND an official U of T medical certificate. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week from the condition. Assignments and midterms from other courses scheduled for the same date, computer problems, traveling issues, or work commitments do not constitute acceptable reasons, so please plan accordingly.

Late penalties: Late work will be penalized. The late submission penalty is 2% per each late day, *weekends included*. Unless otherwise indicated, the cut-off time for the determination of the number of late days is 12 noon (since all work is due at 12 noon).

Submission procedures for late essays: Late essays are to be submitted to the reception of the Political Science Department on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Sidney Smith Hall. Please ensure that all late work is date stamped by departmental staff. Remember to submit your work during business hours (9 am to 5 pm) or no one will be there to receive it. Essays submitted by fax or email will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor for receipt.

Plagiarism: All sources used in essays must be properly cited. Failure to acknowledge sources constitutes plagiarism—a serious academic offense. To guard against plagiarism, students may

be asked to submit their written work to Turnitin.com for textual similarity review, under terms set by the University of Toronto and as described on the Turnitin.com website.

**Blackboard:** Blackboard will be used to manage and coordinate the course. All students are required to have an active University of Toronto email for this purpose. Reading materials and important course announcements concerning important dates and course requirements will be posted electronically on blackboard. In light of the University's strong emphasis on preparedness for possible pandemic outbreaks, students will be expected to check their emails and blackboard on a daily basis to have quick and easy access to information in the event of unexpected disruptions.

**Double-sided printing:** To conserve paper, please print your essays double-sided if you can. You can learn how at: [printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca](http://printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca).

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Please note that no class will be held on February 21 (due to Reading Week).

<b>1. Overview</b>		
Jan 10	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
Jan 17	Week 2	Realist Ethics
Jan 24	Week 3	Liberal Ethics
Jan 31	Week 4	Alternative Ethical Perspectives
<b>2. Theorizing Justice: Rawls</b>		
Feb 7	Week 5	Basic Framework ( <u>Proposal due</u> )
Feb 14	Week 6	Principles and Institutions
Feb 28	Week 7	Pluralism and Stability
Mar 7	Week 8	International Justice
<b>3. Selected Ethical Issues</b>		
Mar 14	Week 9	Intervention
Mar 21	Week 10	Development ( <u>Research paper due</u> )
Mar 28	Week 11	Institutions
Apr 4	Week 11	Student Presentations (Additional hours to be scheduled if needed)

## READING ASSIGNMENTS

### 1. Distribution of Syllabus

- No reading assignment

### 2. Realist Ethics

- Nardin and Mapel, ch. 1, 4, 5
- Beitz, part I

### 3. Liberal Ethics

- Nardin and Mapel, ch. 2, (3), 7, 8, 9, 10

### 4. Alternative Ethical Perspectives

- Nardin and Mapel, ch. 6, 11, 13, 14.
- Young, *Global Challenges*, ch. 6 (CR)

### 5. Basic Framework

- Rawls, *Justice As Fairness*, parts I, III

### 6. Principles and Institutions

- Rawls, *Justice As Fairness*, parts II, IV

### 7. Pluralism and Stability

- Rawls, *Justice As Fairness*, part V (Review also sections: 9, 11)
- Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*, pp. 129-180

### 8. International Justice

- Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*, pp. 1-128

### 9. Intervention

- Beitz, part II and afterword
- Singer, ch. 4
- Young, *Global Challenges*, ch. 2 (CR)
- Pogge, ch. 6 (CR)
- Nardin and Mapel, ch. 12

### 10. Development

- Goulet, "Development Ethics" (CR)
- Beitz, part III and review afterword
- Singer, ch. 1, 3, 5
- Young, *Global Challenges*, ch. 9 (CR)

### 11. Institutions

- Singer, ch. 2, 6
- Pogge, ch. 8, 9 (CR)
- Young, *Global Challenges*, ch. 3 (CR)

### 12. Student presentations

- No reading assignment

## **READINGS IN THE COURSE READER**

- 1) Iris Marion Young, *Global Challenges*, (Polity, 2007), ch. 2, 3, 6, 9.
- 2) Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Polity, 2008), ch. 6, 8, 9
- 3) Denis Goulet, "Development Ethics: A New Discipline," *International Journal of Social Economics*, vol. 24, no. 11, (1997), pp. 1160-1171.