

POL 469F/POL 2226F: ETHICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fall 2017, Thursday 12-2, UC 148

Instructor: Professor Nancy Bertoldi

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10-11 (appointments recommended)

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 actors invoke the language of justice all the time in their international interactions. 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 intervention, development, and international institutions.

The seminar is research-intensive: as a major component of their coursework, students will prepare an independent research paper on an approved topic related to course themes. Students will receive several opportunities to develop and refine their research. Three course components serve that purpose: the research proposal, the research paper, and the research presentation. Students are expected to work closely with the instructor in all stages of their research and are encouraged to book meetings in office hours to receive feedback on their work.

READINGS

The following reading materials will be used in the course:

- 1) John Rawls, *Justice As Fairness: A Restatement*, (Harvard, 2001)
- 2) John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*, (Harvard, 1999)
- 3) Peter Singer, *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*, 2nd ed. (Yale, 2004)
- 4) Selected articles and book chapters available electronically via U of T libraries
- 5) Blackboard site containing PDF copies of readings that are not available electronically

The books are available on short-term loan at Robarts Library and for purchase at U of T Bookstore, located at 214 College Street.

FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

The course will meet for two hours of seminar discussion per week. Additional time may be scheduled for the student presentations, if required by enrolment.

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

Research Proposal (500 words)	15%
Research Paper (3000 words)	45%
Research Presentation (500 words for handout)	15%
Participation	25%

The research proposal (15% of the final grade) consists of a 500-word description of a question students intend to explore in their research paper and a brief description of the approach they expect to take to answer their question, accompanied by a detailed bibliography of works that will be consulted in the process. The selected topic is expected to be relevant to course themes and must be approved by the instructor. It is essential to start working on the proposal early.

The research paper (45% of the final grade) involves the preparation of a 3000-word ethical analysis of the topic that was approved in the proposal.

The research presentation (15% of the final grade) entails a 5-minute oral presentation of the main findings of the research paper, accompanied by a 500-word written handout that will be distributed to the class, followed by a brief 5-minute question and answer period.

Participation (25% of the final grade) will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance and informed participation in class discussions on an ongoing basis. Adequate preparation is essential. Students should be aware that missed weeks can have a significant impact on their final mark for the course.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 20	Last day to add course
October 5	Research proposal due
November 2	Research paper due
November 6	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
November 23 and November 30	Research presentations (schedule TBA)
December 7	Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar
January 9	Last day to file a petition regarding term work

COURSE POLICIES

Extensions and make-ups: No extensions or make-ups will be granted on written assignments and presentations, unless students have acceptable reasons that are documented, e.g. illness supported by an official U of T medical certificate. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of missed term work. Assignments or tests from other courses or work commitments do not constitute acceptable reasons, so plan in advance accordingly.

Length penalties: Students should include word counts on all written assignments. Assignments that are more than 10% longer or shorter than required will be penalized by 5%.

Late penalties: Written assignments are to be handed in *at the beginning of class* on the date that they are due. Late assignments will be penalized. There is no allowance for computer problems, printer problems, late buses, late trains, and so on. The late submission penalty is **2% per late day, weekends included**. The cut-off time for the determination of the number of late days is 5 pm. (Exception: To be fair to students who submit their assignments on time, **assignments received after class begins on the date they are due will be considered 1 day late.**)

Submission of late assignments: Late written assignments must be submitted at the reception of the Political Science Department on the 3rd floor of Sidney Smith Hall. All late work must be date-stamped by departmental staff at the time of submission and must clearly note the course code and the instructor's name. Make sure to submit your work during business hours (9 am to 5 pm) or no one will be there to receive it. Assignments submitted by fax or email will not be accepted, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Plagiarism: All sources used in written assignments must be properly cited. Failure to acknowledge sources constitutes plagiarism—a serious academic offense. For more information, students can review “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on sources at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.

Turnitin: Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Double-sided printing: To help conserve paper, please print all written assignments double-sided if you can. You can learn how at: printdoublesided.sa.utoronto.ca.

Blackboard and Email: Blackboard will be used to manage the course. Students are expected to check their U of T emails and the course blackboard page regularly for posted course materials and announcements.

RESOURCES

Writing skills: Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students can also make use of the college writing centers for individualized consultations on their written assignments. Interested students should book their appointments with the writing centers early, as they fill up fast. Information about the writing centers is available at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>. Students can also take advantage of the Library's free “Writing Plus” academic skills workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>. International students can find information about the English Language Learning program (ELL), which includes practice opportunities for improving oral communication and reading skills, at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca.

Accessibility services: Students with special needs are strongly encouraged to register with accessibility services to arrange necessary accommodations for ensuring they have fair access to their courses.

Registrar's office: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly with any unexpected difficulties they may experience during the course.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

1. Overview		
Sep 7	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
Sep 14	Week 2	Realist Ethics
Sep 21	Week 3	Liberal Ethics
2. Theorizing Justice: Rawls		
Sep 28	Week 4	Basic Framework
Oct 5	Week 5	Principles and Institutions (<u>Research proposal due</u>)
Oct 12	Week 6	Pluralism and Stability
Oct 19	Week 7	International Justice
3. Selected Ethical Issues		
Oct 26	Week 8	Intervention
Nov 2	Week 9	Development (<u>Research paper due</u>)
Nov 9	No class	Fall reading week
Nov 16	Week 10	International Institutions
Nov 23	Week 11	Research Presentations (Schedule TBA)
Nov 30	Week 12	Research Presentations (Schedule TBA)

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus

- No reading assignment.

Week 2: Realist Ethics

- Terry Nardin and David Mapel, [*Traditions of International Ethics*](#), (Cambridge, 1992), ch. 1, 4, 5.
- Charles Beitz, [*Political Theory and International Relations*](#), (Princeton, 1979), part I.

Week 3: Liberal Ethics

- Terry Nardin and David Mapel, [*Traditions of International Ethics*](#), (Cambridge, 1992), ch. 7, 8, 9, 10.

Week 4: Basic Framework

- Rawls, [*Justice As Fairness*](#), parts I, III.

Week 5: Principles and Institutions

- Rawls, [*Justice As Fairness*](#), parts II, IV.

Week 6: Pluralism and Stability

- Rawls, [*Justice As Fairness*](#), part V. (Review also sections 9 and 11 in this book)
- Rawls, [*The Law of Peoples*](#), pp. 129-180.

Week 7: International Justice

- Rawls, [*The Law of Peoples*](#), pp. 1-128.
- Charles Beitz, [*Political Theory and International Relations*](#), (Princeton, 1979), afterword.

Week 8: Intervention

- Singer, [*One World: The Ethics of Globalization*](#), 2nd ed. (Yale, 2004), ch. 4.
- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, (Basic Books, 2006), ch. 6.
- Charles Beitz, [*Political Theory and International Relations*](#), (Princeton, 1979), part II.
- David Miller, “[Defending Political Autonomy: A Discussion of Charles Beitz](#),” *Review of International Studies*, 31/2 (2005), pp. 381-388.

Week 9: Development

- Singer, [*One World: The Ethics of Globalization*](#), 2nd ed. (Yale, 2004), ch. 1, 3, 5
- Charles Beitz, [*Political Theory and International Relations*](#), (Princeton, 1979), part III

Week 10: International Institutions

- Singer, [*One World: The Ethics of Globalization*](#), 2nd ed. (Yale, 2004), ch. 2, 6.
- Thomas Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, 2nd edition, (Polity, 2008), ch. 6.
- Thomas Pogge, “Incentives for Pharmaceutical Research: Must they Exclude the Poor from Advanced Medicine?” in Roland Pierik and Wouter Werner (eds.), [*Cosmopolitanism in Context*](#), (Cambridge, 2010), ch. 5.
- Thomas Pogge, “[Eradicating Systemic Poverty: Brief for a Global Resources Dividend](#),” *Journal of Human Development*, 2/1 (2001), pp. 59-77.

Weeks 11 and 12: Student presentations

- No reading assignment.