

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

Fall 2015, Thursdays 12-2, UC 148

Instructor: Professor Nancy Bertoldi

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Office Hours: Fridays 1-2:30 (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 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 intervention, development, and international institutions.

The seminar is research-intensive: as a major component of their coursework, students are expected to prepare an independent research paper on an approved topic related to course themes. Students receive several opportunities to develop and refine their research. Three course components serve that purpose are 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) Blackboard site (containing weblinks and PDF copies of assigned articles and chapters)

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 on the weeks of the student presentations, if required by high enrolment.

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

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

The research proposal (10% of the final grade) consists of a 500-word description of a topic students intend to write their research paper on, accompanied by a detailed bibliography of works that will be consulted. The topic is expected to be relevant to course themes. It is essential to start working on the proposal early.

The research paper (40% of the final grade) involves the preparation of a 4000-word ethical analysis of an approved topic of relevance to the course (which was approved in the proposal).

The research presentation (10% of the final grade) entails a 5-minute oral presentation of the main findings of the research paper, accompanied by written handout (500 words **maximum**) that will be distributed to the class, followed by a brief 5-minute question & answer period.

Summaries (20% of the final grade) of designated course readings will be assigned to students and marked on an ongoing basis. Summaries should be a **maximum** of 250 words in length. The exact number of summaries assigned will depend on final enrolment. Summaries have to be submitted by email to the instructor and posted on blackboard by 12 noon on the Tuesday before the class they are due. Students will also be expected to bring a hard copy of their summary for marking purposes to class.

Participation (20% of the final grade) will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance and high quality participation in class discussions. Adequate preparation is essential.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 27	Last day to add course
October 15	Research proposal due
November 8	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
November 12	Research paper due
November 26 and December 3	Research presentations
December 8	Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar
December 22	Last day to file a petition regarding term work

COURSE RULES AND POLICIES

Extensions and make-ups: No extensions or make-ups will be granted on written assignments and presentations, unless students have strong 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.

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 each late day, *weekends included*. The cut-off time for the determination of the number of late days is 5 pm. (Please note an 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 counted 1 day late.**)

Submission of late assignments: Late written assignments must be submitted to 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 with your instructor.

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 centres for individualized consultations on their written assignments. Interested students should book their appointments with the writing centres early, as they fill up fast. Information about college writing centres 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 fair access to their courses.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Reminder: All written assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on their due date.

1. Overview		
Sep 17	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
Sep 24	Week 2	Realist Ethics
Oct 1	Week 3	Liberal Ethics
2. Theorizing Justice: Rawls		
Oct 8	Week 4	Basic Framework
Oct 15	Week 5	Principles and Institutions (<u>Research proposal due</u>)
Oct 22	Week 6	Pluralism and Stability
Oct 29	Week 7	International Justice
3. Selected Ethical Issues		
Nov 5	Week 8	Intervention
Nov 12	Week 9	Development (<u>Research paper due</u>)
Nov 19	Week 10	International Institutions
Nov 26	Week 11	Research Presentations (Schedule TBA)
Dec 3	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, 11)
- 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