

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

Fall 2019, Thursday 12-2, Room TBA

Instructor: Professor Nancy Bertoldi

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Office Hours: Thursday 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 primarily in terms of interests and power, but the language of justice is invoked all the time in actual 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 multiple 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 and on reserve

The books are available for short-term loan at Robarts Library. They are also available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore, located at 214 College Street.

FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

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

Research Proposal (500 words)	15%
Research Paper (3000 words)	40%
Research Presentation (500 words for handout)	15%
Participation	40%

The research proposal (15% of the final grade) will describe a question that 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 must be relevant to course themes and must be approved by the instructor. It is essential to start working on the proposal early. Length: 500 words.

The research paper (40% of the final grade) will provide an original **ethical analysis** and present the findings of the research students undertook on their approved topic. Length: 3000 words.

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

Participation (30% of the final grade) will be assessed on an ongoing basis on the basis of class attendance, informed participation in class discussions, and the online completion of assigned just-in-time teaching tasks (JITTs). Adequate preparation is essential. Students are responsible for making sure to sign the attendance sheet, which will be circulated at the beginning of class every week; otherwise they will not receive attendance credit.

COURSE POLICIES

Assignment submission: All written assignments must be submitted online on quercus. Students must also bring an additional hard copy to class for marking purposes.

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, for example an illness supported by an official U of T medical certificate. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of missed term work. Assignments and tests from other courses scheduled for the same day, work commitments, and transportation or printing problems do not constitute acceptable reasons, so plan in advance accordingly. No extensions will be granted on papers beyond the date that marked papers have been returned to the class.

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

Late penalties: All written assignments must be submitted on quercus by **11 am** on their due date. Late assignments will be penalized. The late penalty is **2% per late day**, weekends included. The cut-off time for the calculation of late days is 11 am, as determined by submission times on quercus. Late assignments will not be accepted after marked assignments have been returned to the class.

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 should review “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on using 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.

RESOURCES

Accessibility services: Students with special needs or disabilities are strongly encouraged to register with accessibility services to arrange the necessary accommodations for fair access to their courses.

Registrar: Students are encouraged to contact their registrar promptly if they experience unexpected difficulties during the course that may require accommodations.

Writing skills: Students can visit www.writing.utoronto.ca for advice on all aspects of academic writing. Students are encouraged to 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 critical reading skills, at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

IMPORTANT DATES

September 18	Last day to add course
October 10	Research proposal due
November 4	Last day to drop course without academic penalty
November 14	Research paper due
November 21 and November 28	Research presentations (schedule TBA)
December 5	Last day to request late withdrawal at college registrar
January 10	Last day to file a petition regarding term work

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

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

1. Overview		
Sep 5	Week 1	Distribution of Syllabus
Sep 12	Week 2	Realist Ethics
Sep 19	Week 3	Liberal Ethics
2. Theorizing Justice: Rawls		
Sep 26	Week 4	Basic Framework
Oct 3	Week 5	Principles and Institutions
Oct 10	Week 6	Pluralism and Stability (<u>Research proposal due</u>)
Oct 17	Week 7	International Justice
3. Selected Ethical Issues		
Oct 24	Week 8	Intervention
Oct 31	Week 9	Development
Nov 7	No class	Reading week
Nov 14	Week 10	International Institutions (<u>Research paper due</u>)
Nov 21	Week 11	Research Presentations (Schedule TBA)
Nov 28	Week 12	Research Presentations (Schedule TBA)

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1: Distribution of Syllabus

- No reading assignment.

Week 2: Realist Ethics

- Terry Nardin & 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 & 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.

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 and afterword
- Zhichao Tong, “The Law of Peoples as inclusive international justice,” *Journal of International Political Theory* 2017, 13/2 (2017), pp. 181-195.

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.