POL323H1 F: MIGHT AND RIGHT AMONG NATIONS

Perspectives on Global Justice

Session: May—June, 2011
Time and Place: 12-2pm Monday and Wednesday, SS 1069
Instructors: Kiran Banerjee and Jeffrey Bercuson
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Office Hours: TBA*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What duties do states, and their members, have beyond their borders? Are obligations of justice global in scope? Or, alternatively, are they constrained by national borders? What is the moral standing of states? This seminar course will focus on contemporary debates in international political theory. In this course we will discuss liberal, republican and discursive democratic perspectives on issues of global justice, particularly in light of global social structures and international inequalities. Major themes include: the historical roots of international relations theory; global distributive justice; republicanism and the ideal of non-domination; the possibility of global discursive democracy; cosmopolitanism; the moral relevance of borders; nationalism, patriotism and special duties; sovereignty, international law and the international order. Major thinkers include: Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Jürgen Habermas, Phillip Pettit, Charles Beitz, Thomas Pogge, Iris Marion Young and Seyla Benhabib, among others. Students should therefore have a background in political theory. The course will consist of seminar discussions, paper presentations and some short lectures by the instructors.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the course is to enable students to understand and seek solutions to pressing problems in the domain of global justice. By the end of the term, students are expected to have become familiar with the multiple dimensions of the theoretical literature and be able to critically evaluate the liberal, republican and discursive democratic attempts to make sense of, and to ameliorate, prevailing instances of injustice in the world. This will be accomplished by the turn a set of thematic issues central to claims of global justice.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course Packet
Seyla Benhabib, The Rights of Others Cambridge UP, 2004
Seyla Benhabib, Another Cosmopolitanism Oxford UP, 2006

NB: The course packet will be made available to students for purchase as soon as possible. This will be done via a local print shop where students will be able to procure an affordable course packet containing the required readings—see Blackboard for details. It should be noted that required texts for the class not included in the course packet have been ordered through the University bookstore.
FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

1. **Attendance and Discussion Paper Participation (10% of the final grade).** Each class will begin with a lecture, followed by a portion of the session devoted to class discussions and questions. Participation is strongly encouraged. Students should be aware that they will be responsible for the materials covered in the lectures as well as the readings (which will not always cover the same material) so consistent attendance at lecture is imperative.

   Additionally, each week students who have been assigned to write discussion papers (see below) will be expected to come prepared with questions and concerns related to the reading in order to contribute to and advance the discussion through *active, engaged participation*. It is therefore expected that all students who are responsible for short discussion papers for a given day come prepared with questions related to the sessions readings and have a point of view that demonstrates a strong command of, and sophisticated engagement with, the assigned texts. Merely being present in the classroom does not count towards this portion of your participation grade, which is 10% of the final grade. Students must attend their assigned session; make-ups will only be granted in extenuating and unavoidable circumstances outlined to the instructors in writing or via email, prior to the discussion paper due date.

2. **Short Discussion Paper (15% of the final grade).** Every class session students are assigned to prepare a position paper (~1 page single-spaced) on one of the required readings for the session. Students may additionally draw on or engage with material covered in prior sessions; however, this must complement their discussion of a text from their assigned session.

   For logistical purposes students will be randomly assigned to write discussion papers for each session. This list will be posted to Blackboard following the first course meeting; students are responsible for noting their assigned session and for submitting their discussion paper on time. The instructors are willing to accommodate limited requests of students who may wish to exchange assignments because of a particular interest in a topic or reading; however, this can only be arranged within the first two weeks of the course and is to be facilitated by mutually interested students on their own initiative.

   Discussion papers will be circulated to all students and the instructors no later than **4 pm the day prior** to the class, via Blackboard, on the course discussion board. Please both cut and paste your discussion paper into Blackboard and attach a word document file. All students are required to read these short essays and prepare questions for the discussion component of the course. See assignment annex for further details.

3. **Midterm Exam (25% of the final grade).** An in-class exam is schedule for Monday, June 6. The exam will assess knowledge and comprehension of the course texts covered thus far.

4. **Final Essay (50% of the final grade).** Your final essay should be approximately 11 – 14 double-spaced pages on a subject related to the course theme. Students will be expected to write a research essay on a topic chosen from a list provided by the instructors or on a topic of their own choice drawn from the course material, in consultation with the instructors. The assignment is due **in class** the 22nd of June. See assignment annex for further details.
COURSE RULES AND POLICIES

Extensions and Make-ups: No extensions or make-ups will be granted on discussion papers, midterms, or essays unless students have acceptable reasons that are adequately documented – for example, a medical emergency supported by an official U of T medical certificate. Extensions and permission to write make-up midterms will only be granted in extenuating and unavoidable circumstances outlined to the instructors in writing or via email prior to the due date in question. Extensions will not be granted in any case after the submission deadline or mid-term. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of the missed course requirement. Multiple assignments or midterms from other courses scheduled for the same date – or other work commitments – do not constitute acceptable reasons for extensions, so please plan accordingly.

Late Penalties: Essays are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the date that they are due; discussion papers must be submitted electronically by 4 pm the day before lecture—see details below. Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day, weekends included. All late work should be submitted to the main desk of the Political Science Department (3rd floor of Sidney Smith). Students must make sure late submissions are signed and dated by Department staff. Barring extensions, work submitted more than 10 days after assignment deadlines will not be accepted.

Course Grades: If you have concerns regarding an assignment mark you should present a detailed written explanation (approximately 1 page single spaced) of why you feel the grade is unjustified to both instructors within two weeks of receiving the grade in question. Once an appeal is submitted the entire assignment will be re-examined, not just the question or paragraph mentioned in the appeal. The appeal process can, therefore, result in one of three outcomes: no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

Office Hours and Communication: Office hours are by appointment. We will endeavour to respond to emails within 48 hours, weekends not included. Email is for short clarification questions only. If you have concerns or questions that cannot be answered in a short response please see us during office hours.

Plagiarism: All sources used in essays must be properly cited. Failure to acknowledge sources constitutes plagiarism – a serious academic offense. For further information, see the University’s policy at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize. To guard against plagiarism, students will be asked to submit their work to Turnitin.com under terms set by the University of Toronto and as described on the Turnitin.com website.

Course Prerequisites: It is required that students have taken POL 208 or POL 200. Basic knowledge of twentieth-century history and current affairs is presumed.

Blackboard and E-mail: All students should ensure that they have access to the course Blackboard website, as reading materials & course announcements will be posted electronically.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.
READING ASSIGNMENTS

I. Foundations:

Session 1 - Monday, May 16: Roots of Liberalism and Cosmopolitanism

- Immanuel Kant, Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch in Kant: Political Writings ed. H. Reiss, pp. 93 – 130.

Recommended Supplementary Reading:
- Michael Doyle, Ways of War and Peace: Realism, Liberalism and Socialism, ch. 8.
- Steven B. Smith, “Hegel’s Views on War, the State and International Relations,” American Political Science Review 77, 3 (September 1983): pp. 624 – 632.

II. Liberalism:

Session 2 - Wednesday, May 18: Rawls and Global Justice


Recommended Supplementary Readings:

No class - Monday, May 23: Victoria Day Holiday (University closed)

Session 3 - Wednesday, May 25: Rawls and Global Justice II: A Global Difference Principle?

- John Rawls, The Law of Peoples, Parts III and IV
Recommended Supplementary Reading:
- Review of International Studies 31 (April 2005), Symposium on Beitz’s PTIR (Rengger, Brown, Miller, Caney, Lu and Beitz)
- Thomas Pogge, Realizing Rawls, Part III
- Onora O’Neill, Bounds of Justice. Part I

Session 4 - Monday, May 30: Rawls’s Critics


Recommended Supplementary Reading:

III. Neo-Republicanism:

Session 5 - Wednesday, June 1: The Ideal of Non-Domination in International Relations


Recommended Supplementary Reading:
- Iris Young, “Self-Determination as Non-Domination” in Global Challenges, pp. 58 – 76.

Monday, June 6: MID-TERM EXAM, IN-CLASS.
Session 6 - Wednesday, June 8: Global Republicanism


IV. Global Deliberative Democracy:

Session 7 - Monday, June 13: Habermas and Habermasian Deliberative Democracy


Recommended Supplementary Reading:

Session 8 - Wednesday, June 15: Deliberation Across Borders


Recommended Supplementary Reading:
- Nancy Fraser, “Transnationalizing the Public Sphere: On the Legitimacy and Efficacy of Public Opinion in a Post-Westphalian World” in *Scales of justice: reimagining political space in a globalizing world*, pp. 76 – 99.

Session 9 - Monday, June 20: Cosmopolitan Deliberative Democracy

- Seyla Benhabib, *Another Cosmopolitanism*

Recommended Supplementary Reading:
- Commentary (Honig, Kymlicka and Benhabib) from *Another Cosmopolitanism*, pp. 83 – 186.
V. The People, Borders, and Sovereignty:

Session 10 - Wednesday, June 22: The People, Moral Boundaries and Democratic Borders?


Recommended Supplementary Reading:
- David Miller, Citizenship and National Identity, esp. chs. 2, 4, 5 and 10.