Political Science 4896:
Capstone Seminar on Ethics and International Relations

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Office Hours: M 11:45 – 12:30 p.m
M 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
W 11:45 – 12:30 p.m.

This course offers an introduction to, and in-depth discussion of, ethical issues in international relations. The course is divided into three parts. The first part of the course provides a general introduction to ethical theory, followed by an examination of the major schools of thought regarding the possibility (or impossibility) of ethical conduct in the international arena. The second part of the course focuses on ethical issues concerning the use of force, including the problems of *jus ad bellum* (the justice of war) and *jus in bello* (justice in war), and looks extensively at ethical problems of military intervention in places such as Vietnam, Somalia, Haiti, and the former Yugoslavia, as well as at the question of international terrorism and the “war” against it, and the “pre-emptive” or “preventive” war in Iraq. Third and finally, we turn from military questions to relatively new ethical issues in international relations, including human rights, distributive justice, and environmental protection. The schedule of class meetings is as follows:

- **Week 1:** Introduction (Jan 28)
- **Week 2:** Introduction to Ethical Theory (Feb 4)
- **Week 3:** Political Realism from Thucydides to Today (Feb 11)
- **Week 4:** Deontology and Liberalism (Feb 11)
- **Week 5:** *Jus ad bellum*: Aggression and Self-Defense (Feb 18)
- **Week 6:** *Jus in bello*: The Conduct of War (Feb 25)
- **Week 7:** Intervention: Principles and Practice (March 3)
- **Week 8:** International Ethics in an Age of Terror (March 17; No class March 24, 31 – work on research papers!)
- **Week 9:** Human Rights and Global Distributive Justice (April 7)
- **Week 10:** Environmental Ethics and Climate Change (April 14)
- **Weeks 11-13:** Presentation of Papers and Conclusions (Apr 21, 28, May 5)

**Course Requirements.** As a capstone seminar, this course is also listed as writing-intensive, meaning that we will place heavy emphasis on reading comprehension, writing, and classroom presentation and discussion. Specific course requirements include:

1. Weekly readings of approximately 100-200 pages per week;
2. Participation in class discussions (20% of the grade);
3. Four short essays (1-2 pages, double-spaced) responding to the weekly readings, of which three should be written in the first six weeks of the course (30% of the grade); and
4. A research paper on a topic of the student’s choice, to be undertaken in four stages: (a) a preliminary statement of the topic and argument of the paper, and a draft outline of the paper, maximum 1-2 pages (5% of the grade), due March 3rd; (b) a preliminary annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources used in the research of the paper (5% of the grade), due April 7th; (c) oral presentation of the draft paper in class during weeks 11-13 (approx 10-12 minutes plus question-and-answer session with fellow students, 10% of the grade); and (d) a final draft paper (10-20 pages, 30% of the grade), due on May 12.

Please note that all of the writing assignments will be assessed primarily on the basis of the substantive arguments about ethics and IR, but also on the basis of how clearly and carefully they are written.

**Required Reading:** The following required books are available in the University Bookstore:


Unless otherwise indicated, all other required readings are included in a readings packet which will be available for purchase (details to be announced in class) and on reserve at Paley Library. Other good texts on international ethics, which will be used only briefly or not at all in the course but may be useful as starting points for research papers, include:


**Disability policy:** Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. Contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 or 100 Ritter Annex to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

**Academic Conduct**
Temple University has adopted standards on academic conduct, and all students in PS 460 are expected to comply fully with those standards, including with reference to the important issue of plagiarism. All students should, in all assignments, fully and unambiguously cite sources from which they are drawing important ideas and/or sizable quotations (for example, more than eight consecutive words or more than 50% of a given sentence or paragraph). Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious act of academic misconduct and will result in a failing grade for the course and notification of the infraction to the Dean of Students. Similarly, cheating during exams, copying written assignments from other students, or providing answers to others during exams are considered acts of academic misconduct. If you are unfamiliar with policies about plagiarism or other types of academic misconduct, you may wish to consult the on-line guide to “Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Acknowledging Sources,” available at the Temple Writing Center (http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/student_resources/student_resources.htm) or if you still have remaining doubts or specific questions, raise them directly with me.

**Temple University policy on the freedom to teach and learn:**

Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed through the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02.
SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

PART I: THE PROBLEM OF ETHICS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Week 1: Introduction (Jan 28)

Required

Stanley Hoffmann, Duties Beyond Borders, Chapter 1.

Recommended


The journal Ethics and International Affairs, various issues, for a good overview of the evolution of the field.

Week 2: Introduction to Ethical Theory (Feb 4)

Required

* William K. Frankena, Ethics, Chapters 1-3, 6.

Recommended

Michael Palmer, Moral Problems: A Coursebook (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991), esp. chapters 1 (ethics), 2 (utilitarianism) and 3 (Kant and deontology).

Frances V. Harbour, Thinking About International Ethics: Moral Theory and Cases from American Foreign Policy (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 77-91 and 111-129 (chapters 5 and 7, on consequentialism and deontology, respectively).
Week 3: Political Realism from Thucydides to Today (Feb 11)

Required


Recommended

Amstutz, International Ethics, pp. 53-58.


Michael Joseph Smith, Realist Thought from Weber to Kissinger (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1986).


Nardin and Mapel, Traditions of International Ethics, Chapters 4 and 6 (on classical and modern realism, respectively).

Week 4: Deontology and Liberalism (Feb 11)

Required


**Recommended**


**PART II: THE USE OF FORCE AND THE JUST WAR TRADITION**

**Week 5: Jus ad bellum: Aggression and Self-Defense** (Feb 18)

**Required**


**Recommended**


**Topic: Feminist Perspectives**


**Week 6: *Jus in bello*: The Conduct of War (Feb 25)**

**Required**

* Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, chapters 8, 9, 14, 16, and 17.


**Recommended**


**Topic: The Ethics of Economic Sanctions**


**Week 7: Intervention: Principles and Practice (March 3)**

**Required**


* Samantha Power, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide* (New York: Harper Perennial, 2003), read chapter 1 plus **at least two** of the following chapters: 8 (Iraq), 9 (Bosnia), 10 (Rwanda), 11 (Srebrenica), and 12 (Kosovo).


**Recommended**


**Week 8: International Ethics in an Age of Terror** (March 17)

**Required**

**On Terrorism**


**On Counter-Terrorism**


**On Pre-emption and Preventive Strikes**

* Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, reread chapter 5 (“Anticipations”).


**Recommended**

**On Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism**


Gideon Rose and James F. Hoge, eds., *How Did This Happen? Terrorism and the New War* (New York: Public Affairs, 2001).


**On Preemption, Prevention, and the War in Iraq**


Stanley Hoffmann, *The Imperial Temptation and the War in Iraq* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2004).


**PART III:**

**ETHICS AND THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ORDER**

**Week 9: Human Rights and Global Distributive Justice (April 7)**

**Required**

Stanley Hoffmann, *Duties Beyond Borders*, chapters 3 and 4 [on human rights and global distributive justice, respectively].


**Recommended: Human Rights**


**Recommended: Global Distributive Justice**


*Topic: Asylum and Refugees*


Week 10: The Ethics of the Global Environment and the Case of Climate Change (April 14)

**Required**


Recommended


PART IV:
CLASS PRESENTATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS
Weeks 11-13: Presentation of Papers and Conclusions (April 21, 28, May 5; individual presentation dates to be assigned during the semester)