

# GLOBAL ETHICS

TTh ##:##-##:## ❖ Room: ###

While discussions of ethics and political philosophy often focus on interpersonal conduct between friends, colleagues, neighbors and fellow citizens, in our globalized society it is becoming harder to ignore obligations we might have to people from other countries. This course first surveys some moral theories for thinking about ethics at the inter- or supra-national level. We look at Morgenthau's famous expression of political realism before examining a handful of liberal and cosmopolitan theories. We also cover Young's social-connection theory of responsibility and MacIntyre's defense of partiality. We then examine some pressing international issues: poverty, immigration, climate change and war. We look at how these international crises intersect with inequalities of race and gender. We then proceed to evaluate the U.N.'s legal solution to addressing international misconduct: the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court. We examine some specific doctrines of complicity and perpetration in international criminal law. Finally, we conclude with two critiques of the liberal/cosmopolitan moral frameworks presumed by most of our theorists, one from the left (Mouffe) and one from the right (Legutko).

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Office Location: ###  
Office Hours: TBD

## Texts and Readings

*All readings will be distributed through the university's online platform.*

## Learning Outcomes

This course serves as a focused study of topics in global ethics. Students will primarily consider advanced arguments on ethics and sociopolitical theory as they apply to members of other states, countries and continents. Students will also:

- » Acquire an understanding of basic concepts in ethics and sociopolitical theory.
- » Learn to develop a conference length philosophical research paper.
- » Practice presenting their work to others.
- » Think critically about how we ought to deal with threats to the global community.

## Prerequisites

One philosophy course, preferably in ethics or political philosophy.

## Assessment

To benefit from this course, you must be prepared and engaged in class. This means being on time, completing required assignments before class and participating in class discussion.

The grading distribution is as follows:

Short Papers: 30%. There will be four shorter written assignments, each 2 to 3 pages in length. These assignments could require argument reconstruction, argument analysis or argument criticism.

Research Blog Project: 20%. Students will research an applied topic in global justice and produce an accessible overview on a popular blogging platform.

Presentation: 10%. Presentations may take one of two formats: First, students may treat the presentation as a practice conference paper. For this option, students will present a 5 page paper to the class and respond to questions. Alternatively, students may decide to lead class for approximately twenty minutes. If so, students will present the main argument from the reading and pose questions to get discussion started.

Final Paper: 30%. Students will write an extended response to one or more of the articles we read in class. The paper requires some outside research. The paper will be argumentative and have a clear thesis, a defence of that thesis and consideration of one or two potential objections. Students will meet with the professor as they develop their paper to get comments and revisions.

Class Participation: 10% A good, engaging class requires students to freely participate and share their thoughts and criticisms. Students are expected to support the class by regularly attending and participating in class discussion.

### **Class Policies**

*Attendance* - Assignments are frequently handed out in class, so missing a significant amount of class will result in missed assignments and a reduced class participation grade.

*Electronic Devices* - Tablets, e-readers, smartphones and laptops are permitted in class, as long as they do not become a distraction. If electronic devices become a distraction, this policy will become significantly more restrictive and only select electronic devices will be permitted.

*Late Assignments* - Late short papers will not be accepted without a formal excuse. Presentations may be rescheduled, but all presentations must be given on the day of the assigned reading. I will accept the final paper after the day it is due, but it will lose a third of a grade point for every day it is late. For example, an A paper turned in one day late will be assigned an A-. For those students who present a valid formal excuse, makeup work is due by the last day of classes.

*Disabilities or Special Needs* - I am happy to accommodate students with disabilities or special needs. Any student requiring special accommodations should speak to the instructor immediately.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

No cheating or plagiarism will be tolerated. Clear cases of cheating or plagiarizing will result in an immediate F for the assignment. Be aware that unintentional plagiarism still counts as plagiarism. If you copy a passage or idea from your notes and forget where it came from, that still counts as plagiarism. It is up to you to make sure that you properly cite any claim, passage or idea that is not your own. Ideas in student writing that are not original or properly cited will count as plagiarism. Please look over the university's policy on plagiarism carefully.

## Course Outline

Week	Content
Moral Frameworks for a Global Ethic	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T Introduction to Global Ethics (no reading)</li> <li>- Th H. Morgenthau "The Twilight of International Morality"</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T J. Rawls <i>Law of Peoples</i> (excerpt)</li> <li>- Th C. Beitz <i>Political Theory and International Relations</i> (excerpt)</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T P. Singer "Famine, Affluence and Morality"</li> <li>- Th I.M. Young "Responsibility and Global Justice"</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T A. MacIntyre "Is Patriotism a Virtue?"</li> <li>- Th G. Hardin "Lifeboat Ethics"</li> </ul>
Poverty	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T T. Pogge <i>World Poverty and Human Rights</i>, "General Introduction"</li> <li>- Th G. Brock "Global Poverty, Decent Work, and Remedial Responsibilities"</li> </ul>
Immigration	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T D. Miller "Democracy's Domain"</li> <li>- Th J. Carens "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders"</li> </ul>
Climate Change	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T Mid-Semester Break (no class)</li> <li>- Th IPCC Summary for Policymakers; J. Broome "The Ethics of Climate Change"</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T P. Singer "One Atmosphere"</li> <li>- Th M. Risse "Who Should Shoulder the Burden?"</li> </ul>
War	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T M. Walzer <i>Just and Unjust Wars</i> (excerpt)</li> <li>- Th N. Crawford "The Slippery Slope to Preventative War"</li> </ul>
Gender	
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T A. Jaggar "'Saving Amina': Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue"</li> <li>- Th C. MacKinnon "Rape, Genocide, and Women's Human Rights"</li> </ul>
Race	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T F. Fanon <i>The Wretched of the Earth</i>, "On Violence"</li> <li>- Th K. Appiah <i>The Lies that Bind</i>, "Color"</li> </ul>
Global Governance	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T U.N. Charter Chapter VII and XIV; <i>Nicaragua v. United States</i></li> <li>- Th The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; "Overview of the United States' Opposition to the International Criminal Court"</li> </ul>

**Course Outline (continued)**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Content</b>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- T Buchanan and Keohane "The Legitimacy of Global Governance Institutions"</li><li>- Th Thanksgiving Break (no class)</li></ul>
Theories of Perpetration in International Criminal Law	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- T M. Drumbl "Collective Violence and Individual Punishment"</li><li>- Th M. Osiel "Modes of Participation in Mass Atrocity"</li></ul>
Whither Liberalism?	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- T C. Mouffe <i>On the Political</i> (excerpt)</li><li>- Th R. Legutko <i>The Demon in Democracy</i>, "Politics"</li></ul>