

Version 13 JAN 2025 (Draft)

PHIL 3431

Topics in Political Philosophy: Global Justice

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(Emails are for administrative matters and for making appointments. Substantive discussions are best conducted in person).

Office Hours:

M 1:30-2.30 and W 5-6 (immediately after class).

Description

In this seminar, we will focus on a range of issues in global justice. The basic goal of this Philosophy Majors seminar is to develop the student's independent research and philosophical skills. The course is divided into two main parts. The first will consist of assigned topics and readings. Examples of the topics we will cover in the first part of the course include just war, global economic justice, global health justice, and climate and environmental justice. The second part of the course will cover topics and readings selected by students.

Requirements (subject to revisions)

1. **General Class Participation**, including Attendance: **15%**
 - a. I will give you a letter grade for this component roughly around every third of the semester (5% per third) so you will know how you are doing.
 - b. Participation grade includes but is not limited to attendance.
 - c. Completing the assigned readings is expected.
 - d. See Appendix for more details.

2. **Five Reading Reflections** on selected readings. About 250 to 300 words each, 3% each. Pass/Fail for a total of **15%**.
 - a. This includes leading discussion in class on the assigned reading.
 - b. **Three of these are *due by March 5***.
 - c. Refer to the Sign-up Sheet.
 - d. See Appendix for more details.

3. **One short Essay** (1,500 words) ***Due March 21*: 20 %**.
 - a. This paper will be in the form of an extended critical analysis on the assigned readings.

4. **Presentation:** deliver a 20-minute lecture on an unassigned reading of your choice (with consultation) and lead class discussion. **10%** (To be scheduled, **starting from about April 4** - TBC). These could be readings on the topic you plan to write your term essay (# 5. below) on.

5. **Term Essay** (3,000 words): **40%**

There are three parts to this assignment

- a. 1:1 meeting to discuss paper topic.
- b. Paper abstract/proposal submission (***Due April 21***) and class presentation (during last two weeks of classes, TBD.) (5%)
- c. Term Paper: ***Due May 5*** (35%)

Student Support

See Course Canvas page

Course Schedule: Topics and Readings

Notes:

- 1. **Subject to revisions**
- 2. **Readings/Topics from 3/26 onwards are to be determined, depending on student interests.**

Topic/Date	Author/Title	Plan and Basic Questions	
Introduction			
1. 15/1	Brock, "Global Justice", SEP	Administration; and introduction to the subject. The assigned paper provides an overview of the core questions in contemporary global justice, some of which we will explore in the first part of the course.	

Liberal Internationalism			
2. 22/1	Rawls, <i>The Law of Peoples</i> , Part II	We will discuss Rawls's methodology. But our basic substantive question is this: What are the limits of liberal international toleration?	
3. 27/1	Rawls, <i>The Law of Peoples</i> , Part III	Does liberal international justice include an egalitarian distributive obligation?	
4. 29/1	Kymlicka, "Toleration and Its Limits"	How ought the liberal state balance respect for cultural pluralism and individual rights?	
Immigration			
5. 3/2	Carens, "Aliens and Citizens"	Does global justice require open borders?	
6. 5/2	Miller, "Immigration and Territorial Rights" or Walzer "Membership"	Is the freedom of mobility a basic right?	
Review and Research Session			
7. 10/2	No assigned readings.	Meeting to discuss students' research projects and papers for presentation. Also, discussion of first essay assignment.	
Just War			
8. 12/2	Walzer, <i>Just and Unjust Wars</i> (excerpts) Recommended: Orend, "Michael Walzer on Resorting to Force"	What are the conditions for a justified war? What are the conditions for fighting a war justly	
9. 17/2	Luban, "Just Wars and Human Rights"	Should the criterion of a justified war be	

		understood in terms of state sovereignty, or human rights? What are the implications of each view on the permissibility of humanitarian intervention?	
10. 19/2	McMahan, "On the Moral Equality of Combatant"	Is <i>jus in bello</i> independent of <i>jus ad bellum</i> ?	
Climate Justice			
11. 24/2	Shue, "Subsistence Emissions and Luxury Emissions"	Climate justice: What are the challenges of climate change mitigation/adaptation in the context of global justice?	
12. 26/2	Moellendorf, "Climate Change and Global Justice" and Gardiner, "The Ethics of Climate Change"	What are some of the principles of climate justice? Which of these is the most basic?	
Review and Research Meeting			
13. 3/3	No assigned reading.	We will review some of the topics and questions we have covered. We will also go over the first essay assignment.	
Colonialism			
14. 5/3	Mills, "Race and Global Justice"	What are the implications of imperialism and racism for global justice?	
Spring Break			
15. 17/3	Blomfield, "The Significance of Historical Injustice"	What makes colonialism unjust? Specifically, how	

		should we think about climate justice given the history of colonialism?	
Review and Research Meeting			
16. 19/3 *Note: First Essay due March 21 (Friday)	No assigned reading	Meeting with students to determine readings for presentation and final paper topic	
Reparations			
16. 24/3	Souter, "Towards a Theory of Asylum as Reparations"	Can granting asylum be taken as a duty of reparations?	
17. 26/3	Chan, "Expropriation as Reparations"	Can reparations take the form of expropriation?	
[Schedule Permitting - TBD] Below are some provisional topics.		Other possible topics: Humanitarian assistance and effective altruism; ethics of philanthropy; animal justice, environmental justice.	
Human Rights			
19. TBD	Nussbaum, "Capabilities and Human Rights"		
20. TBD	Beitz, "Human Rights as Common Concern"		
Global Health			
21. TBD	Daniels, "International Health Inequalities and Global Justice"		
22. TBD	Brock, "Global Health and Responsibilities"		
Student presentations: Topics for the remaining sessions will be determined by students. In consultation with the instructor, you may			

choose to follow up on topics covered above, or on a new topic.			
23. TBD			
24. TBD			
25. TBD			
26. TBD			
Term paper: Abstract Presentations (More sessions to be added if required)			
27.			
28.			

Appendix

Reading Reflections:

1. Sign up for a reading (five in total). Go to sign up sheet on Canvas.
2. Three of these must be completed by March 5.
3. Each reflection should be about 250 to 300 words long.
4. Due by 2 pm **on the date of assigned selected reading**.
5. Submit on Canvas under "Assignment" **and also** on "Discussion".
6. This will be graded without comments on pass/fail basis.
7. You will be asked to share your reflections in class, and to field discussion.
 - a. Absence from class will 'disqualify the submission.
8. You can make-up for a failing submission by selecting and writing on another reading. But the deadlines are rigid.
9. Your basic aim is to motivate class discussion.

Guidelines:

Organize your reflection in three parts:

1. What is the author claiming? What is the basic claim?
2. How does the author support their claim? (What are the arguments?)

3. What do you think? (e.g. Do you agree? What is your own position/view)? And any questions for discussion?

Class Participation and Attendance: 15%

Attendance is important but so is good participation.

Unexcused absences will count against your participation mark, as will late arrival to class (After 10 mins, you will be marked as absent). Allowances will be made for exceptional circumstances, but you will have to let me know.

In general, students who earn full marks for participation have at least 97% attendance and are active participants.