

PHIL 114: Global Moral Issues

Instructor of Record & Office Hours

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Teaching Assistants & Office Hours

Course Overview

This course introduces various ethical issues that arise in our globally connected world today. After brief introduction on the nature of ethical claims, this course moves through five units. The first looks at the value of patriotism and whether we ought to think of ourselves as first and foremost ‘global citizens.’ We then move on to our duties and obligations to the global poor, from providing aid, (abstaining from?) buying products produced in sweatshops and volunteering abroad. Issues of population control, environmental sustainability, and climate change are next, looking at questions like – is it wrong to procreate, given the carbon footprint of the average American? The second half of the course will largely consist of questions concerning immigration and border control, as well as ethical engagement in warfare. Special attention will be given to current issues, such as whether undocumented immigrants should be deported and the ethics surrounding the (U.S.’s involvement in the) war in Ukraine. The course ends with a unit on feminism and multiculturalism, asking how we balance advancing women’s rights while respecting other cultural perspectives.

Required Text

All required readings will be posted on Brightspace.

Course Schedule

Date	Subject	Readings
Mon, 8/21	Introduction/What is Ethics?	
Wed, 8/23	Ethical Relativism	“The Challenge of Cultural Relativism”, Rachels
Fri, 8/25	<i>Discussion section</i>	
Mon, 8/28	Cosmopolitanism & Patriotism	“Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism”, Nussbaum
Wed, 8/30	Cosmopolitanism & Patriotism	“Constitutional Faith”, Barber “Democratic Citizenship”, Gutman “How White Supremacy Became Part of the Nation’s Fabric”, Yacovone

Date	Subject	Readings
Fri, 9/1	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 9/4	No Class (Labor Day)	
Wed, 9/6	Cosmopolitanism & Patriotism	<p>"Don't Neglect the Little Platoons", McConnell</p> <p>"Identification With All Humanity as a Moral Concept and Psychological Construct", McFarland et al.</p>
		Paper 1 Assigned
Fri, 9/8	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 9/11	Cosmopolitanism: Study Abroad Programs	"Becoming Global Knowledge Workers", Collins
Wed, 9/13	Global Poverty & Aid	<p>"Famine, Affluence & Morality", Singer</p> <p>Explore the website: https://www.givewell.org/charities/top-charities </p>
Fri, 9/15	<i>Discussion Section</i>	Paper 1 Draft due – Paper Workshop
Mon, 9/18	Global Poverty & Aid	<p>"Famine Relief & Human Virtue", Cohen</p> <p>Peer Review Comments for Paper 1 Due</p>
Wed, 9/20	Global Poverty & Aid	<p>"World Poverty and Human Rights", Pogge</p> <p>"Famine Relief: The Duties We Have to Others", Wellman, pp. 426-28 only</p>
Fri, 9/22	<i>Discussion Section</i>	Paper 1 Final Draft Due
Mon, 9/25	Global Poverty & Aid	<p>"The Great Non-Debate Over International Sweatshops", Maitland</p> <p>"How Goods Made with Forced Labor End Up in Your Local American Store"</p>

Date	Subject	Readings
Wed, 9/27	Global Poverty & Aid	"The Business of Voluntourism: Do Western Do-Gooders Actually Do Harm?", Rosenberg
Fri, 9/29	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 10/2	Population Control, Sustainability & Climate Change	Watch video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CxC161GvMPc&t=284s "The Tragedy of the Commons", Hardin, pp. 28-32 only "Lifeboat Ethics", Potter
Wed, 10/4	Population Control, Sustainability & Climate Change	"On 'Lifeboat' Ethics," Griger, Heim, Carrol Take Ecological Footprint Quiz: https://www.footprintcalculator.org/
Fri, 10/6	<i>No Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 10/9	No Class – Fall Break	
Wed, 10/11	Population Control, Sustainability & Climate Change	"Procreation, Adoption, and the Contours of Obligation", Rieder
Fri, 10/13	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 10/16	Population Control, Sustainability & Climate Change	"Should You not Have Kids Because of Climate Change? It's Complicated", Osaka "A Climate Scientist Explains Why It's Still Okay to Have Children", Samuel
Wed, 10/18	Population Control, Sustainability & Climate Change	"The Problem of Past Emissions and Intergenerational Debts", Duus-Otterström Paper 2 Assigned
Fri, 10/20	<i>Discussion Section</i>	

Date	Subject	Readings
Mon, 10/23	Borders & Immigration	"Immigration: The Case for Limits", Miller
Wed, 10/25	Borders & Immigration	Continued: "Immigration: The Case for Limits", Miller
Fri, 10/27	<i>Discussion Section</i>	Paper 2 Draft Due – Paper Workshop
Mon, 10/30	Borders & Immigration	"The Case for Open Immigration", pp. 380-88 only; Kukathas Peer Review Comments for Paper 2 Due
Wed, 11/1	Borders & Immigration	"The Case of Amnesty", pp. 1-24, Carrens "Dreaming of Amnesty: Legalization Will Spur More Illegal Immigration", Inserra
Fri, 11/3	<i>Discussion Section</i>	Paper 2 Final Draft Due
Mon, 11/6	Topic TBD [Potential catch up day]	Reading TBD
Wed, 11/8	War: Just War Theory	"Just War Theory
Fri, 11/10	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 11/13	War: Just War Theory	Selections from <i>Killing in War</i> , McMahan pp. 7-8; 10-21; 24-25; 32-35
Wed, 11/15	War: Just War Theory	"Here's what Americans think the US should be doing about Russia's invasion of Ukraine" "Economic Sanctions, Just War, and the 'Spectacle Fear of the Civilian Dead'", pp. 391-99

Date	Subject	Readings
Fri, 11/17	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 11/20	War: Just War Theory	“Revising, or Rejecting, ‘Reasonable Prospect of Success’ in Just Wars? Lessons From Ukraine”
Wed, 11/22	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
Fri, 11/24	<i>No discussion section – Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Mon, 11/27	War: Autonomous Lethal Weapons	“The Ethics & Morality of Robotic Warfare” *Watch video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-Ks6MbxzQ0
Wed, 11/29	Feminism & Multiculturalism	“Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?”
Fri, 12/1	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
Mon, 12/4	Feminism & Multiculturalism	“Arranged Marriage: Could it Contribute to Justice?” Bhandary
Wed, 12/6	Review/Catch-Up Day	
Fri, 12/8	<i>Discussion Section</i>	
12/11		Final Exam (Cumulative)

Important Due Dates & Allocation of Course Points

Due Date	Item	Point Percentage
9/18	Peer Review Comments for Paper 1	5%
9/22	Paper 1	15%
10/30	Peer Review Comments for Paper 2	5%

11/3	Paper 2	25%
Finals Week	Final Exam	30%
Weekly	Weekly Recitation Participation (Attendance, Discussion, Quizzes)	20%

Grades will be assigned according to this chart:

Final Average	Course Grade
97.5% and above	A+
92.5-97.4%	A
89.5-92.4%	A-
87.5-89.4%	B+
82.5-87.4%	B
79.5-82.4%	B-
77.5-79.4%	C+
72.5-77.4%	C
69.5-72.4%	C-
59.5-69.4%	D
59.4% and below	F

Academic Integrity

All work handed in for this class must be your own. The inclusion of any data, words, or ideas from any other source must be acknowledged, and that source must be given proper credit. Failure to do so will be considered plagiarism. For this course, plagiarism is defined as: a) The use of any passage of three words or longer from another source without proper attribution. Use of any phrase of three words or more must be enclosed in quotation marks (“example, example, example”). The source of the material must be identified in the text, by a parenthetical reference, footnote, or endnote. b) Use of material from an un-cited source, making very minor changes (like word

order or verb tense) simply to avoid the three-word rule. c) Inclusion of facts, data, ideas, or theories originally thought of by someone else, without giving that person (organization, etc.) credit. You must identify the source, whether in an endnote, footnote, parenthetical reference, or in the text. d) Paraphrasing ideas or theories (writing them in your own words) without giving the original thinker proper credit. e) Allowing another person to make extensive changes to your paper. This is considered “unauthorized aid.” (Allowing a friend to check your work for typos or grammar is fine.) f) Using artificial intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT) to produce your paper, part of a paper, or other assignment responses. The instructor reserves the right to determine whether ChatGPT was used, via technology including, but not limited to, using ChatGPT detectors (Hugging Face, GPTZero, etc.).

Even partially plagiarized assignments will receive a failing grade, so it is in your best interest to do your work on your own. Even assignments that you have struggled with will probably result in a grade higher than that of plagiarized work. If you have any questions about what constitutes or how to avoid plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask.

Classroom Environment & Policies

Please foster a learning atmosphere by respecting classmates and the instructor. Students are asked to turn off their cell phones when class begins. Use of laptops even for notetaking purposes is highly discouraged but permitted if deemed it necessary for your learning. Anything on your laptop screen will distract your classmates seated behind you. I reserve the right to ban laptops if they become distracting.

Special Accommodations:

Any student who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible, so that we can discuss any accommodations necessary to ensure full participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

Emergencies

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and even grading percentages are subject to change. Information about emergency changes in the course can be obtained by consulting the course website, or, if necessary, by contacting me via email or phone. Purdue’s Emergency Procedures Handbook and other important emergency planning information are available online at: http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/