

INTA 2030: Ethics and International Affairs

Spring 2013

Lecturer:

Tahseen Kazi

Office: Habersham, Room 143

Office Hours (at CULC Starbucks): Tuesday, 9:30 am -10:20 am

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Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description

This is a survey course intended to introduce you to the main traditions of international ethics. As you learn about their theories, we will also explore their impact and significance for issues and controversies in world politics today. The contemporary issues to be considered include the justice of war, international humanitarian intervention, and global poverty.

Required Texts and Interactive Aids

The following required text is available at the GT Barnes and Noble Bookstore:

Duncan Bell, ed., *Ethics and World Politics* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

All other required readings will be placed on T-Square or are available online at the given Internet address.

While participating in this class, you are expected to have a reasonable familiarity with current world events. This can be accomplished by reading at least one major newspaper daily, such as *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. I would highly recommend that reading from among such periodicals become a regular part of your daily routine for the rest of your life, if it has not already.

Recommended Readings

For those of you interested in further study, here are some important texts on international ethics:

Immanuel Kant, *Kant: Political Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991)

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (New York: Random House, 1995).

John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press).

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (New York: Basic Books).

Peter Singer, *One World* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002).

Academic journals that focus on or publish articles on international ethics include *Ethics and International Affairs*, *Millennium*, and *American Political Science Review*.

Course Evaluation

In-class Quizzes:	24%
Course Essay	16%
In-class Midterm Exam:	30%
In-class Final Exam:	30%

The quizzes, midterm exam and final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. They will cover both class lectures and course readings. Although the final exam will not be cumulative, it will be difficult for you to do well on the final if you did not learn or understand the material covered for the midterm.

Course essay: The course essay will be written out of class. The topic of the essay should be on how a current issue in international politics relates to theories discussed in class.

The course essay should be *no more than five pages in length*. The course essay is due on Thursday, April 11th, at the start of class. Turn in a hardcopy of your essay. Essays submitted any other way will not be accepted.

Although class attendance is not mandatory for this course, I highly recommend that you attend class regularly.

Excused absences from tests will be treated as follows:

Quizzes: Your average score in your other quizzes will be used.

Midterm: Your final exam will count toward both the midterm and final. Excused absences for the midterm and final will be authorized only in emergency circumstances such as an unexpected death in the family.

There will be no makeup tests, except in the highly unusual case of having an excused absence for the final exam.

This class adheres to the Georgia Tech Honor Code:

Cheating off of another person's test or quiz is unethical and unacceptable. Cheating off of anyone else's work is a direct violation of the GT Academic Honor Code, and will be dealt with accordingly.

Unauthorized use of any previous semester course materials, such as tests, quizzes, homework, projects, and any other coursework, is prohibited in this course. Using these materials will be considered a direct violation of academic policy and will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me, my teaching assistants, or www.honor.gatech.edu.

Readings Schedule

The readings schedule is subject to additions or removals of readings in accordance with course needs as the semester progresses. Refer to our T-Square site for the latest schedule. All readings are available online at the url given or are posted on T-Square.

Note: **The texts under class dates should already be read *before* that class.** Be prepared to discuss the readings for each class, to be able to answer questions that I may pose about the readings, and to answer quiz questions on the readings.

Week 1

January 8: Introduction

January 10: The Study of Morals
James Rachels, "What is Morality?"

Week 2

January 15: Bell, Chapter 4: Ethics and Politics

January 17: Bell, Chapter 5: Political Realism. Limits to Ethics?

Week 3

January 22: Conviction and Responsibility in International Society
In class film: *Remains of the Day*

January 24: Conviction and Responsibility in International Society
In class film: *Remains of the Day*

Week 4

January 29: Morgenthau, “International Morality”

January 31: **Quiz 1**; Nardin, “Introduction: Two Modes of International Association.”

Week 5

February 5: Hedley Bull, “Society and Anarchy in International Society”
And,
Bell, Chapter 6: The Ethics of International Society

February 7: Bell, Chapter 7: Defending Community

Week 6

February 12: Bell, Chapter 8: Cosmopolitanism

February 14: **Quiz 2**; Bell, Chapter 13: Human Rights

Week 7

February 19: Bell, Chapter 14: Poverty and Global Distributive Justice

February 21: Singer, “Famine, Affluence and Morality”
And
Case Study: The UN Millennium Declaration
The UN Millennium Declaration
<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>
The Millennium Development Goals Report 2010. Read “Forward” and
“Overview,” skim rest

Week 8

February 26: Bell, Chapter 16: The Ethics of War

February 28: ****Midterm****

Week 9

March 5: No class

March 7: Bell, Chapter 17: Critical Alternatives on the Ethics of War
And
Bell, Chapter 19: Terrorism

Week 10

March 12: **Quiz 3**

Debating the Afghanistan War

B. Orend, "War" Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war/>

In class videos: Congressmen debate the Afghanistan War in the U.S. House of Representatives

March 14: In-class documentary film: *Restrepo*

Come 5 minutes early to class, and be ready to stay for the whole class period

Week 11

March 19: Spring Break

March 21: Spring Break

Week 12

March 26: Bell, Chapter 1: Ethics and Analytical Political Philosophy

March 28: Bell, Chapter 2: Ethics and Critical Theory

Week 13

April 2: In-class film, *Frontline: Ghosts of Rwanda*

April 4: In-class film, *Frontline: Ghosts of Rwanda*

Week 14

April 9: Bell, Chapter 18: Humanitarian Intervention

April 11: **Essay Due**

Ethics and Scarcity

Advance reading:

1. Garrett Harding, "Tragedy of the Commons"
2. Peter Singer, "One Atmosphere"

Week 15

April 16: Bell, Chapter 10: Green Political Theory

April 18: Bell, Chapter 9: Feminism

Week 16

April 23: Bell, Chapter 11: Post-colonial Theory

April 25: Final Review

**** The in-class final exam will be held on Thursday, May 2 at 8:00 am****