Georgia Institute of Technology

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Spring 2014

INTA 2030: Ethics in International Affairs

Class Time: T, R 3:05-4:25 PM

Classroom: Instructional Center 103

Instructor:

Dr. Mikulas Fabry

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Office hours: by appointment Thursdays 1:15-2:15 PM

Graduate Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to survey central ethical problems in international relations. These include questions such as: What are a country’s obligations to foreign states or peoples? Under what circumstances may armed force be used, and by whom? What should be the role of human rights in foreign policy? When is external intervention in civil conflicts acceptable? Can international law be ever justifiably defied? Is terrorism always wrong? Is torture always wrong? Should every international crime be prosecuted and punished? Is democracy for everybody? To what extent are countries responsible for mitigation of extreme poverty or environmental degradation beyond their borders? The course is divided into two parts. The first introduces major traditions of reflection on international ethics. It seeks to articulate their common assumptions and claims while paying attention to their internal richness and varying viewpoints. The second part then elaborates on some of the most significant contemporary issues in international ethics, integrating into the discussion recent empirical cases. The key focus is on issues related to the use of armed force, human rights and international distributive justice.

The course thus has four core learning objectives:

1. To familiarize students with selected traditions of thinking about ethics in world politics
2. To introduce students to normative reasoning and argumentation
3. To survey and examine some of the most prominent ethical issues in international relations
4. To enable students to apply the traditions when analyzing concrete cases

**Required Text:**

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, 4th ed. (Basic Books, 2006). This book is available for purchase in GT Barnes & Noble and Engineering Bookstores and on reserve in the Main Library.

Other readings will be available directly, or linked to particular online resources, on T-Square’s course website (<https://t-square.gatech.edu/portal>) under “Resources”. Resources using Microsoft Office software will use the 2007 version. It is the responsibility of students to ensure access to resources posted on T-Square. Should you experience technical difficulties, contact the Office of Information Technology (<http://www.oit.gatech.edu>) for help.

**Course Evaluation**:

Students have a choice to be evaluated according to one of the following two formats:

Format 1 (default):

* Two closed-book in-class exams, on February 4 and March 13 (worth 25% each)
* Final closed-book exam, on Thursday, May 1 from 11:30 AM to 2:20 PM (40%)
* Participation (10%)

Format 2:

* Two closed-book in-class exams, on February 4 and March 13 (worth 25% each)
* Research paper, due on April 28 at 2 PM in the instructor’s mailbox in Habersham 129 (40%)
* Participation (10%)

If you want to be evaluated according to Format 2, **you must declare so by e-mailing the instructor by Tuesday, January 21**. Otherwise, students will be evaluated according to Format 1. There is no set list of questions for the research paper assignment. Students should formulate their own question based on their interests and mandatory consultation with the instructor. In general, the research papers should examine an issue involving ethics in international affairs and include empirical evidence in their analysis. By the last third of the semester, you should have enough research to draw up a five-page outline (double-spaced with 1” margin from each side and 12-size font) that sketches the paper’s topic, preliminary argument and annotated bibliography of at least 10 academically reputable sources beyond the course material, including books and academic journal articles. The outline is due on **April 1** and is worth 10% of your final course grade. The final research paper should be 15-20 double-spaced pages long (with 1” margin from each side and 12-size font). It is worth 30% of the final course grade. Papers will be graded on the basis of their originality and logic of argument, quantity and quality of supporting research, and readability and elegance of writing style.

You must take all exams on their assigned dates and times, unless you can provide official documentation of illness or family emergency. For students graded according to Format 2, late research papers outlines and research papers will be penalized by half a grade per day late, unless valid justification for missing the due date is provided before the due date. In all your coursework, you must adhere to Georgia Tech’s Honor Code ([www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu)). In-class exams, which will be graded by the TA, can be appealed to the instructor within one week of their return. Students must attach to the exam a sheet containing their name, e-mail address, and a detailed explanation of why their grade should increase. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire assignment (i.e. not just the appealed part) and to increase, affirm or decrease the originally assigned grade.

You are **required** to attend lectures and have the assigned readings completed **before** the lecture. Doing the assigned reading prior to each class is essential since class time will regularly feature discussion. You should also follow events in international relations by reading respectable news publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist*.

Absence is excused only for **legitimate** reasons. In addition to being present every class, you are expected to participate actively. Although this is a relatively large class, we will have discussions in a variety of formats. Bring with you 3”x5” index cards to every class – I will regularly ask you to write brief discussion summaries or other written exercises and hand them to me at the end of the class. Your participation grade will be determined by the ratio of the handed-in written exercises (assuming that they show familiarity with the course material) to the total number of these exercises. If you participated in 90%-100% of the total number of exercises, your participation grade will be 10/10, if in 80%-90% you participation grade will be 9/10, etc. Students can earn **up to 5 % extra credit** by making both **regular and informed** verbal contributions in class.

**Outline of Classes and Readings**:

[N.B. The schedule is subject to revision; I will provide ample notice.]

**January 7: Course Introduction**

Begin readings for next class

**January 9: International Relations as an Ethical Subject**

Robert Jackson, *The Global Covenant: Human Conduct in a World of States* (Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 1-16.

1. ***Contending Approaches to International Ethics***

**January 14: Systematic Thinking/Traditions in International Ethics**

Terry Nardin, “Ethical Traditions in International Affairs,” in Terry Nardin and David Mapel (eds.), *Traditions of International Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 1-22.

**January 16: Realism**

George Kennan, “Morality and Foreign Policy,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. **64** (Winter 1985/86), pp. 205-218.

**January 21: Idealism/Liberal Internationalism**

Michael J. Smith “Liberalism and International Reform,” in Terry Nardin and David Mapel (eds.), *Traditions of International Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 201-224.

**January 23: The International Society Tradition**

Robert Jackson, *The Global Covenant: Human Conduct in a World of States* (Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 16-25 in Ch.1; and Ch. 15, pp. 400-426.

**January 28: Neoconservatism**

Robert Kagan, “Neocon Nation: Neoconservatism, c. 1776,” *World Affairs*, Vol. 170, No. 4, (Spring 2008), pp. 13-35.

**January 30: Review Session**

**February 4: FIRST IN-CLASS EXAM**

1. ***The Use of Force***

**February 6: Justice of War**

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Chs. 1, 2, 4, 7.

**February 11: Preemptive and Preventive Self-Defense**

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Ch. 5.

President George W. Bush’s Speech at West Point, June 1, 2002, available at http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2002/06/20020601-3.html

Neta C. Crawford, “The Slippery Slope to Preventive War,”  
*Ethics and International Affairs*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring 2003), pp. 30-36.

**February 13: Case Study: The 2003 Iraq War**

John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “An Unnecessary War,” *Foreign Policy*, No.134 (January/February 2003), pp. 51-59.

Paul W. Schroeder, “Iraq: The Case against Preemptive War,” *The American Conservative*, October 21, 2002.

Robert Kagan and William Kristol, “The Right War for the Right Reasons,” *The Weekly Standard*, February 23, 2004.

**February 18: Military Intervention**

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Ch. 6.

Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, *The Responsibility to Protect* (2001), pp. vii-18, available at [www.iciss.ca/report-en.asp](http://www.iciss.ca/report-en.asp)

Clifford Orwin, "Humanitarian Military Intervention: Wars for the End of History?" *Social Philosophy and Policy*, Vol. 23 (Winter 2006), pp. 196-217.

**February 20: Justice in War**

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Chs. 3, 8, 9, 11, 13.

Recommended: Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Chs. 14, 15, 16, 17.

**February 25: Film: The Fog of War (Part I)**

**February 27: Film: The Fog of War (Part II) and Discussion**

**March 4: Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism**

Michael Walzer, “Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses,” in *Arguing about War* (Yale University Press, 2004), pp. 51-66.

Michael Walzer, “After 9/11: Five Questions about Terrorism,” in *Arguing about War* (Yale University Press, 2004), pp. 130-142.

**March 6: Debate: Is Torture Ever Acceptable?**

Henry Shue, “Torture in Dreamland: Disposing of the Ticking Bomb,” *Case Western Journal of International Law*, Vol. 37, Nos. 2-3 (2006), pp. 231-239.

Charles Krauthammer, “The Truth about Torture,” *The Weekly Standard*, December 5, 2005.

**March 11: Review Session**

**March 13: SECOND IN-CLASS EXAM**

**March 18, 20: Spring Break (NO CLASSES)**

1. ***Human Rights***

**March 25: Human Rights: What Are They?**

R. J. Vincent, *Human Rights and International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 1986), pp. 7-18 and pp. 37-57.

**March 27: Instructor Away at a Conference (NO CLASS)**

**April 1: International Practice of Human Rights – RESEARCH PAPER OUTLINES DUE (STUDENTS GRADED ACCORDING TO FORMAT 2)**

Jack Donnelly, *International Human Rights*, 4th ed. (Westview Press, 2013), pp. 3-17.

**April 3: International Criminal Justice and Its Dilemmas**

Philippe Kirsch, “The Role of the International Criminal Court in Enforcing International Criminal Law,” *American University International Law Review*, Vol. 22 (2007), pp. 539-547.

Jack Goldsmith and Stephen D. Krasner, “The Limits of Idealism,” *Daedalus*, Vol.132 (Winter 2003), pp.47-63.

1. ***International Distributive Justice***

**April 8: International Distributive Justice and Foreign Aid**

Stanley Hoffmann, “Problems of Distributive Justice,” in *Duties beyond Borders:* *On the Limits and Possibilities of Ethical International Politics* (Syracuse University Press, 1981), pp. 141-187.

**April 10: Debate: Should the Debt of Poor Countries be Forgiven?**

Romilly Greenhill, “The Unbreakable Link – Debt Relief and the Millennium Development Goals,” *New Economics Foundation* (February 2002).

William Easterly, “Debt Relief,” in John T. Rourke, *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics* (McGraw Hill, 2004).

**April 15: Instructor Away (NO CLASS)**

**April 17: The Environment**

Henry Shue, “Global Environment and International Inequality,” *International Affairs*, Vol. 75 (1999), pp. 531-545.

**April 22: Global Justice: Mirage or Evolving Reality?**

Chandran Kukathas, “The Mirage of Global Justice,” *Social Philosophy and Policy*, Vol. 23 (2006), pp. 1-28.

Simon Caney, “Global Justice: From Theory to Practice,” *Globalizations*, Vol. 3 (June 2006), pp. 121-137.

**April 24: Final Exam Review Session**