

INTA 2030: Ethics in International Affairs Syllabus

Lecturer:

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Core Area/Attributes Fulfilled by This Class

Students completing this course should be able to:

Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior.

Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

Describe relationships among languages, philosophies, cultures, literature, ethics, or the arts.

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 book 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.

The primary way to discuss topics, ask questions and get answers in and out of class will be through the web site Piazza (piazza.com). You will be participating in discussions on Piazza, and I encourage you to also post your questions on Piazza to foster community. Piazza questions and answers are like Wikipedia: anyone can contribute to them. Collaboratively edited questions and answers are easier to read and comprehend than a long thread of comments, and there is a separate section for answers from the instructor. Please post your picture on Piazza – it will help us learn each others' names. We will be using this tool a lot, and your participation grade will be based on your use of it.

Sign up at this address: piazza.com/gatech/spring2015/inta2030

Our class page is at: piazza.com/gatech/spring2015/inta2030/home

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*, the Financial Times, and *The Washington Post*. I would highly recommend that reading from among such newspapers become a regular part of your daily routine for the rest of your life, if it has not already.

Recommended Books

For those of you interested in further study, here are some important texts in 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*, and *Journal of Global Ethics*.

Course Evaluation

In-class attendance	10%
Piazza Participation:	20%
Two In-class Quizzes:	20%
Course Essay	30%
In-class Final Exam:	20%

The quizzes and final exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. They will cover both class lectures and course readings. The final exam will be cumulative.

Course essay: The course essay will be written out of class. The topic of the essay will be how a current issue in international politics relates to theories discussed in class. Later in the semester, we will use Piazza to discuss and come to agreement on two current issue choices for the essay. Each student will choose one of these two options.

The course essay should be *no more than three thousand words in length*. The course essay is due on Thursday, April 16th, at the start of class.

Piazza participation:

There are two parts to your Piazza participation grade: reading reflections and class discussion.

Reading reflection: For each of 5 reflections that you submit (1/15 through 4/16) on Piazza, you will be given one point for submission or two points for high quality. Make your submissions on dates of your choice, but they each have to be on a different week. Each reflection must be on the reading scheduled for that date and must be submitted by class time on the date that it is due. In order to earn the one point for submission, each reflection must demonstrate that you did the reading. In order to earn two points for high quality, each reflection must demonstrate a very thorough and critical reading of the assignment. By the second week of submissions, examples of essays that earned two points will be posted on Piazza. Each reflection essay should be no more than 500 words and ideally 2-300 words. You may respond respectfully to others' reflections with your own. Grades for this part of your participation grade will be calculated out of 24 total points, as follows: A = 9-10, B = 8, C = 7, D = 6, F = 0-5.

Class discussion: For 5 classes of your choice (1/15 through 4/16; not the same days as your reflections), participate in the class discussion on Piazza. I will post a question about the day's reading and we will have a discussion thread on the topic. With a class as big as ours, it will be hard for everyone to talk in class. Hopefully, by having a good discussion system, we'll all be able to participate and learn from one another. You will be graded 1-2 points for each of your discussion contributions, up to 10 points. After your first five submissions, you are encouraged to continue to participate in the discussions but will not be graded for your posts. The grading scale is the same as above.

In general, consider posting your questions on Piazza before emailing me. Often, other students have answers to your question and just as often, other students have the same question. This way our Piazza site can become a resource for all of you.

Class attendance will be taken daily. You are allowed three unexcused absences. If you have more than three unexcused absences, you will lose 3% of your overall grade for each absence, up to 9% of your overall grade. Excused absences will not affect your participation grade. **Excused absences** from tests will be treated as follows:

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

Final exam: Excused absences for the final will be authorized only in emergency circumstances such as an unexpected death in the family.

There will be no makeup tests.

School of International Affairs Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course should be able to:

Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

Use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern.

Become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.

Demonstrate understanding of key issues with respect to a range of different variables.

Develop effective communication skills: Express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations.

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 TSquare site for the latest schedule. All readings other than required texts are available online at the url given or are posted on TSquare.

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 on Piazza in class about the readings, and to answer quiz questions on the readings.

Week 1

January 6: Introduction

January 8: The Study of Morals

James Rachels, "What is Morality?"

Week 2

January 13: Bell, Ch. 4, "Ethics and Politics"

Selections of Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*, and Machiavelli, *The Prince*

January 15: Bell, Ch. 5, "Political Realism. Limits to Ethics?"

Hans Morganthau, "International Morality"

Week 3

January 20: Globalization and International Society

In class film: *Babel*

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation"
David Held, "Towards a Global Covenant: Global Social Democracy"
January 22: Globalization and International Society
In class film: *to be announced*
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, "Globalization and Democracy"
Terry Nardin, "Introduction: Two Modes of International Association"

Week 4

January 27: Bell, Ch. 6, "The Ethics of International Society"
Hedley Bull, "Society and Anarchy in International Society"
January 29: **Quiz 1**

Week 5

February 5: Bell, Ch. 7, "Defending Community"
February 7: Alisdair MacIntyre, "Is Patriotism a Virtue?"

Week 6

February 10: Bell, Ch. 8, "Cosmopolitanism"
Immanuel Kant, "Perpetual Peace," Essay 1, 2, and 6
February 12: Bell, Ch. 1, "Ethics and Analytical Political Philosophy"

Week 7

February 17: Bell, Ch. 2, "Ethics and Critical Theory"
Jurgen Habermas, "The Crisis of the European Union"
February 19: Bell, Ch. 3, "Ethics and Post-structuralism"
Julian Reid, "Biopolitics of the War on Terror"

Week 8

February 24: Bell, Ch. 9, "Feminism"
Laura Sjoberg, "Agency, Militarized Femininity, and Enemy Others"
February 26: Bell, Ch. 11, "Post-colonial Theory"
Siba Grovogui, "Regimes of Sovereignty"

Week 9

March 3: **Quiz 2**
March 5: Bell, Ch. 13, "Human Rights"
Charles Beitz, "Human Rights as a Common Concern"
Turn in your essay topics on TSquare

Week 10

March 10: Bell, Ch. 14, "Poverty and Global Distributive Justice"
Watch Peter Singer, "The How and Why of Effective Altruism"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Diuv3XZQXyc>
Read the UN Millennium Declaration:
<http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>
The Millennium Development Goals Report. Read "Forward" and "Overview"
March 12: Bell, Ch. 20, "Citizenship, Immigration, and Boundaries"
Roxanne Lynn Doty, "Immigration and the Politics of Security"

Week 11

March 17: Spring Break

March 19: Spring Break

Week 12

March 24: Bell, Ch. 16, “The Ethics of War” and Chapter 18, “Humanitarian Intervention”

B. Orend, “War” Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy:

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

March 26: Bell, Ch. 17, “The Ethics of War: Critical Alternatives” and Chapter 19, “Terrorism”

Week 13

March 31: Bell, Ch. 10: Green Political Theory

Peter Singer, “One Atmosphere”

April 2: Kevin Grove, “Insuring Our Common Future?”

Week 14

April 7: Bell, Ch. 15, “International Law”

Watch Ann-Marie Slaughter, Holt Lecture on International Law (start at 10 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPL53BJx7qY>

April 9: Watch Martti Koskenniemi, “The Politics of International Law” (start at 2:30 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3AGVTHsq4>

Week 15

April 14: Bell, Ch. 21, “Democracy and World Politics”

David Held, “Reframing Global Governance”

April 16: Jacques Derrida, “On Cosmopolitanism”

Robert Dahl, “Can International Organizations be Democratic?”

****Essay Due****

Week 16

April 21: TBA/ Catch up

April 23: Final Review

**** The in-class final exam will be held on Thursday, April 30 at 8:00 am****