

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

Ethics in International Affairs INTA 2030
Fall 2023

Dr. Eliza Maria Markley

Class Meetings: T, Th 2.00 pm – 3.15 pm, Guggenheim 244

Office hours: Thursday 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm Habersham, Room 141

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course covers issues of moral values and ethical reasoning in international relations. It looks at the importance of international political morality in determining individual and collective conduct of foreign relations and examines the ethical nature of the rules, structures, and informal patterns of the international system. While the course emphasizes theoretical concepts and approaches, its main goal is to encourage ethical analysis by applying the concepts to specific global issues and problems.

Learning Outcomes

Students:

1. will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior
2. should demonstrate familiarity with select traditions of ethics in world politics and different modes of normative reasoning and argumentation
3. should be able to analyze prominent ethical issues in international relations
4. should become more aware of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.
5. should be able to apply different traditions and cultural systems of ethics in international affairs when analyzing concrete cases

Required Textbook

Amstutz, Mark, International Ethics (4th edition, not the latest edition). Textbook is needed – please procure it in advance.

Other readings will be available in Canvas.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Class Participation – 5% of course grade
Students are **required** to attend lectures and complete all assigned readings **before** the lecture. Doing the assigned reading prior to each class is essential since class time will regularly feature discussions. Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions on the subjects addressed in the readings and lectures. Lectures during the course may not cover all the readings. You are responsible for the information contained in the reading, whether it is covered or not in lectures, as well as for the information in the lectures.

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*.

Participation grade is based on active and constructive contribution to class discussions and group work (2.5%), as well as attendance (2.5%).

2. Homework – 10% of course grade.
Homework will consist of very short individual papers or group assignments.
3. Quizzes and Final Exam/Final Research paper – 85% of course grade
Students have a choice to be evaluated according to one of the following two formats:

a. **Format 1 (default)**

- Six closed-book quizzes (10% each)
- Final closed-book cumulative exam 25%
- Homework 10%
- Participation 5%

b. **Format 2:**

- Six closed-book quizzes (10% each)
- Research paper 25%
- Homework 10%
- Participation 5%

If you want to be evaluated according to Format 2, **you must declare so by e-mailing your TA by Tuesday, September 19th**. 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 or TA during their office hours. 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 four-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 **November 9th**. The final research paper should be 10 - 12 double-spaced page-long (with 1" margin from each side and 12-size font) and should have a bibliography of at least 10 academically reputable sources beyond the course material, including books and academic journal articles. 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.

Grading and Assessment

A = 89.5-100; B = 79.5-89.4; C = 69.5-79.4; D = 59.5-69.5; F = below 59.5

- A: Outstanding and original work; well-argued, well-organized, without significant error or omission.
- B: Very fine work, reasonably argued, clearly organized, with only slight error or omission; clearly well above the average.
- C: Solid work of a quite satisfactory nature; clear evidence of engagement and comprehension, but with some organizational, factual, or interpretive errors/omissions.
- D: Passing, but only marginally acceptable work with clear deficiencies of length, fact, organization, or interpretation; incomplete work.
- F: Unacceptable work submitted with such significant deficiencies that no credit can be awarded.
- Participation 5%
 - Homework 10%
 - Quizzes 60%
 - Final Exam/Research paper 25%

Late Paper Policy

Late papers/homework will receive 5 points deduction for each calendar day (this includes weekends) they are late.

Questions, Various Issues, and Concerns

ALL questions or concerns will be addressed to your TA. Only when the issue does not get resolved, email Dr. Markley.

Other Class Policies

- Class discussions may lead, from time to time, to contentious issues. I expect all students to be respectful of one another, even if they disagree about certain issues. High levels of civility should characterize our class debates.
- Laptop computers can be used in class **ONLY** when the instructor allows. **Abusing computer privileges will result in loss of participation points.** Moreover, students may be prohibited from using their computer for the rest of the semester (no email, Facebook, twitter, etc)
- Cell phone should be put on silent. Disruptions from such devices will adversely affect your participation grade.
- For assignments that will be submitted through Canvas, students need to ensure that assignments can be opened and are readable. To ensure this, students should attach all written assignments in either .doc or .pdf formats.
- Online quizzes and exams will be available to be viewed during TA's office hours. Exams, which will be graded by the TA, can be appealed to the instructor within one week of their viewing and upon consultation with the TA. Students must attach to the exam a typed 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.

Additional Information and Services

1. The Office of Disability Services – – <https://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/> (404-894-5429)

2. Academic Honor Code

The Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code states: “Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. The immediate objective of an Academic Honor Code is to prevent any Students from gaining an unfair advantage over other Students through academic misconduct. Academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort Student grades or other Student academic records.” Such acts include, for instance, plagiarism.

Plagiarism means using an author’s exact or paraphrased words without citation or acknowledging the source of information. Whether intentional or not, plagiarism is considered cheating and will not be tolerated. If you are unsure whether something should be cited, please ask. All written assignments will be checked by “Turnitin” – please ensure that the format you have submitted in Canvas is readable. A “0%” “Turnitin” result indicates a format that is not appropriate, and you will be asked to resubmit your work. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero for your assignment.

Course Outline and Reading Assignments

Note: The schedule is subject to revisions. I will provide ample notice for any change.

Date	Topics and Readings
8. 22	Course introduction
8. 24	<p>Debate: Is Torture Ever Acceptable?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Henry Shue, “Torture in Dreamland: Disposing of the Ticking Bomb,” <i>Case Western Journal of International Law</i>, Vol. 37, Nos. 2-3 (2006), pp. 231-23 -Canvas. ➤ Charles Krauthammer, “The Truth about Torture,” <i>The Weekly Standard</i>, December 5, 2005 - Canvas.
8.29, 31	<p>Morality and Foreign Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch 1 ➤ Robert Jackson, <i>The Global Covenant: Human Conduct in a World of States</i> (Oxford University Press, 2000), pp. 1-16.
9.5, 7	<p>Ethics and Global Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch 2 ➤ Debate communitarianism vs. cosmopolitanism
9.12	Quiz 1
9.14, 19	<p>The Role of Ethical Traditions – Realism, Idealism and Principled Realism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch. 3 ➤ Terry Nardin, “Ethical Traditions in International Affairs,” in Terry Nardin and David Mapel (eds.), <i>Traditions of International Ethics</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 1-22. ➤ George Kennan, “Morality and Foreign Policy,” <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, Vol. 64 (Winter 1985/86), pp. 205-218 ➤ Michael J. Smith “Liberalism and International Reform,” in Terry Nardin and David Mapel (eds.), <i>Traditions of International Ethics</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1992), pp. 201-224. ➤ In-class theory application group work
9.19	Deadline for choosing Format 2 – email the TA (not Dr. Markley)
9.21, 26	<p>Strategies of Ethical Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch 4
9.28	Quiz 2
10.3, 5	<p>The Ethics of International Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Amstutz, Ch 5

10.10	Fall Break
10.12	The Ethics of Political Reconciliation ➤ Amstutz, Ch 6
10.17	Quiz 3
10.19, 24, 26	The Ethics of War ➤ Amstutz, Ch 7 ➤ Documentary: The fog of War
10.31	The Ethics of War – Case Study: the 2003 Iraq War ➤ John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “An Unnecessary War,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> , No. 134 (January/February 2003), pp. 51-59. ➤ Paul W. Schroeder, “Iraq: The Case against Preemptive War,” <i>The American Conservative</i> , October 21, 2002. ➤ Robert Kagan and William Kristol, “The Right War for the Right Reasons,” <i>The Weekly Standard</i> , February 23, 2004 ➤ Debate: Was the decision to go to War in Iraq morally legitimate?
11.2	The Ethics of Irregular War ➤ Amstutz, Ch 8 ➤ Michael Walzer, “Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses,” in <i>Arguing about War</i> (Yale University Press, 2004), pp. 51-66. ➤ Michael Walzer, “After 9/11: Five Questions about Terrorism,” in <i>Arguing about War</i> (Yale University Press, 2004), pp. 130-142. ➤ Documentary: Terror in Moscow
11.7	Quiz 4
11.9	Outline Research paper (for Format 2) due
11.9	The Ethics of Foreign Intervention ➤ Amstutz, Ch 9 ➤ Debate
11.14, 16	The Ethics of International Economic Relations ➤ Amstutz, Ch10 ➤ Romilly Greenhill, “The Unbreakable Link – Debt Relief and the Millennium Development Goals,” <i>New Economics Foundation</i> (February 2002). ➤ William Easterly, “Debt Relief,” in John T. Rourke, <i>Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in World Politics</i> (McGraw Hill, 2004). ➤ Debate: Should the Debt of Poor Countries be Forgiven?
11.21	Quiz 5
11. 28	Pursuing International Justice ➤ Amstutz, Ch 11 ➤ European refugee crisis Promoting Global Justice ➤ Amstutz, Ch 12 ➤ Chandran Kukathas, “The Mirage of Global Justice,” <i>Social Philosophy and Policy</i> , Vol. 23 (2006), pp. 1-28. ➤ Simon Caney, “Global Justice: From Theory to Practice,” <i>Globalizations</i> , Vol. 3 (June 2006), pp. 121-137.

11.30	Quiz 6
12.5	Class review
12.7 @ 2.40	Final Exam and Research Paper due