

GLOBAL ETHICS

PHIL 2304 – SUMMER I, 2014 – CRN: 62759

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*international issues
and moral philosophy*

CONTENT

The goal of this class is to present issues that matter in the everyday life of 21st-century global citizens, like racism, social justice, oppression, development, hunger, wealth, human rights, and imperialism.

The general framework of the class is that the world is plagued by deep injustice that requires urgent attention. While we may disagree about how bad the problem is and how to solve it, it is assumed that injustice and oppression exist and are morally wrong. No serious philosophical scholar believes that the world is “just fine” as it is, so that opinion will not receive serious scrutiny. Instead, we will focus on why injustice exists, how we can recognize it, what shapes it takes, and what we can do to address it within our means and without unreasonable sacrifice.

This class favors breadth over depth and adopts a multidisciplinary approach centered on moral philosophy. We will read texts from philosophers, critical theorists, sociologists, novelists, and others. Whatever your field of study is, I encourage you to integrate it in our discussions, especially when you participate in the online forums.

FORMAT

The class will be conducted entirely on Scholar, with no in-person meetings. Until June 4 you may meet with me in my office (by appointment). After June 5 I will be out of town and you may reach me via e-mail or through Scholar. Virtual office hours will take place on **Scholar (Chat tool) or via Skype (claudio.damato81)**.

REQUIRED BOOK

Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers, by Kwame Anthony Appiah (ISBN: 9780393329339). \$11.

MATERIAL

It is your responsibility to complete the weekly readings before each Friday, when assignments are due. You may, of course, get it all done earlier in the week. All readings are on Scholar, plus Appiah's book.

You will need to finish reading Appiah's book by the last week. You will discuss it on the forums and it will be a major part of the final exam. If you need help as you read it, do not hesitate to ask me or your classmates!

Each Monday I will post a video lecture on YouTube. Lectures explain the key concepts from the week's readings that may be more difficult to understand on your own. You may use lecture as either an introduction or a supplement to the readings. Exams and assignments will cover material from *both* the lectures *and* the readings.

PARTICIPATION

Participation on the Scholar Forums is highly recommended, as it is worth 20% of your grade.

Try to *both* make a point *and* engage those of other students. You should not spend all your time talking to yourself or shooting down other ideas without contributing anything of value. Rather, try to engage in *conversation*: ask a question, answer someone else's, criticize or defend a reading, propose an alternative way of interpreting what the author said, relate the material to current events or to your other studies, etc.

There are no length limits or requirements for online participation, though most students prefer to keep their posts to 3-5 lines. **You may earn up to 2% of your final grade for each quality post, not to exceed 4% per week.**

During the first week you may post an introduction for 2% extra credit. This allows us to know you better and me to design future lectures to cater to your needs. Your introduction should present yourself, say what you study, what you like, what you care about, why you are taking this course, and whether you have previous philosophical education or interests. If you prefer, you may e-mail me your introduction privately instead of posting it to the public forums.

As you would in a classroom, please treat everyone online with the utmost respect and impeccable manners, even as your stated opinion disagrees with theirs. Remember: people have feelings, ideas don't.

POLICIES

Accommodation. Please inform me by **May 30** of any health concerns or documented disabilities. I am here to help!

Honor Code. I take it seriously, even in the summer. Suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Court.


Grades. If you have an issue with a grade that you have received, please e-mail me about it. Include a description of what you think the right grade should have been and why, pointing to specific examples that you think I have under-evaluated. You will receive a response in up to three days' time.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING








Everything is due electronically on Scholar. Complete the exams under "Tests & Quizzes," turn in paper and outline under "Assignments," and participate under "Forums."

<i>First exam</i>	10%	Multiple choice and short answer. Includes material from the first two weeks.
<i>Second exam</i>	15%	Multiple choice and short answer. Includes material from the first four weeks.
<i>Third exam</i>	20%	Short answer and essay questions. Includes material from the entire course.
<i>Outline</i>	15%	A detailed, bullet-point summary of one reading. 1-2 pages.
<i>Paper</i>	20%	A position paper arguing for one side of a debate. 1-2 pages.
<i>Participation</i>	20%	Post to the Scholar Forums. Up to 4% per week.

SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

Readings are on Scholar (go to Resources) or on the Web (click the links  in the syllabus).

Video lectures will be uploaded to [my YouTube channel](#). 

TOPICS	LECTURES AND READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
Week 1: May 26 – June 1 Ethics	D'Amato - Rachels Video lecture #1 available Monday 5/26	nothing
Week 2: June 2 – 8 Development	Pogge - LeGuin Video lecture #2 available Monday 6/2	F 6/6 first exam
Week 3: June 9 – 15 Colonialism	Said - Fanon - Mills Video lecture #3 available Monday 6/9	F 6/13 outline
Week 4: June 16 – 22 Imperialism	Newitz  - Cole  - Simons  - Wade  - GGTA  Video lecture #4 available Monday 6/16	F 6/20 second exam
Week 5: June 23 – 29 Globalization	Dunaway - Marcos - Torres - Stiglitz  Video lecture #5 available Monday 6/23	F 6/27 paper
Week 6: June 30 – July 6 The Future	Barber  - Taylor - Appiah (finish book) Video lecture #6 available Monday 6/30	nothing
THIRD AND FINAL EXAM: turn in on Scholar by Sunday, July 6th at 11:59 p.m. ET		