

Welcome! ☺ Read the entire syllabus: all that's worth knowing is here and all that's here is worth knowing.
You may not claim ignorance of anything in this syllabus, so read it well and ask if you have questions!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the class is to answer, at least in part, the so-called “global problem.” Simply put, the world sucks and it shouldn't: too many humans live in sub-human conditions and too many deaths are completely unnecessary. The root of the problem is how the world's nations interact and why. By studying those interactions and judging whether or not they are fair and just, we will inch closer to solving the global problem.

No prior philosophical knowledge is required to do well. However, prior experience in ethics courses may benefit some of you, because: (1) we will only spend one week on general morality and justice before discussing the theory and practice of global ethics; (2) many of our readings are long and difficult, so you will find them easier if you're used to reading philosophy. Those who lack prior philosophical experience can definitely still earn the top grades and understand all there is to understand, but they should factor in slightly harder work and a generally steeper learning curve.

HOW TO DO PHILOSOPHY

The goal of philosophy is the search for wisdom and truth, not harmony. “Agree to disagree” may be a commendable attitude in everyday life, but it is poor scholarship. Here's a recipe for good philosophizing:

1. **Judge all ideas** and arguments that you encounter, including your own, as thoroughly and impartially as you possibly can. Ideas have no feelings that you can hurt, so don't hold back.
2. **Respect all people:** ideas may not deserve respect, but people do. Be kind, inclusive, and give fair hearing to all sides. This is especially true of the philosophers whose arguments we will read: they are professionals and you have a lot to learn from them.

“This argument is flawed because of these reasons...” = GOOD!

“This guy's a terrible person” or “You must be stupid” = BAD!

This balance between an open mind and a critical mind is very difficult to achieve, so try your hardest!

REQUIRED TEXTS

S. Cahn. *Exploring Ethics: An Introductory Anthology, 2nd Edition*. Oxford UP. ISBN: 9780199757510.

T. Pogge, D. Moellendorf. *Global Justice: Seminal Essays*. Paragon House. ISBN: 9781557788696.

T. Pogge, K. Horton. *Global Ethics: Seminal Essays*. Paragon House. ISBN: 9781557788702.

PAPER

3-5 double-spaced pages; other guidelines will follow. The introduction must include your thesis (what you argue), summarize your main claims, and show how each claim supports your thesis. The rest of the paper discusses each claim in turn, presenting your reasoning and evidence for it. **This format is mandatory.** No research outside of our textbooks is required or even recommended: I want to read your ideas. Before you write, **you should send me an outline or see me (by appointment)**. The sooner the better.

Papers are due at the beginning of class. Late papers will incur a 5% grade deduction for each day they are late. The due date after class time already counts as day one. Late submissions due to extenuating circumstances must be arranged in advance and documented. **Upload your paper to Scholar only: no hard copies.**

Excellent grammar and clear style are expected. Visit the writing center or talk to me if you need help.

EXAMS

You will take a **midterm** and a **final**. The final is comprehensive of all course material. You may bring one letter-sized "cheat sheet" with whatever you want on it, so long as it is printed on one side and leaves the other blank. No electronic devices. You may not make up a missed exam without prior arrangements.

WORKSHOP

A 500-word exercise where you summarize two sides of a debate and then present your own argument for which side is better and why. The focus is partially on what you say but especially on how you say it.

QUIZZES

Five, take-home. See schedule. Each quiz is worth up to 10 points and concerns the readings for that week.

GRADING

The maximum possible points is **300**, thus distributed:

Paper = 75 Final = 75 Midterm = 75 Quizzes = 50 Workshop = 25 Participation = **≤10 extra**

A 279 A- 270 B+ 261 B 249 B- 240 C+ 231 C 219 C- 210 D+ 201 D 189 D- 180

This course is not an "easy A." Past averages have attested around B-. However, I do not curve grades.

GRADE CONTESTATION

If you think you have received an unfair grade on an assignment, please e-mail me a written appeal within 3 days of receiving the graded assignment. In your appeal, explain the specific parts of your assignment that you think I have graded unfairly. Include what you think the proper assessment should be and why. I will then review your appeal and return the re-graded assignment to you within 3 days. If I find that I had been correct the first time, your grade will stay the same. If I find that I had been too strict, I will raise it. And if I find that I had been too lenient, I will lower it. Thus, if you think you have a strong case, then by all means appeal. If not, don't just "give it a shot": you'll waste your time and mine and it might even hurt your grade.

ACCOMMODATION

Please see or e-mail me if you need accommodation due to learning disabilities or any other health-related reasons: we will work with you right away. Make sure to bring it up with me no later than **Friday 1/27**.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Since several readings are only available electronically, you may use a laptop, Kindle, Nook, Galaxy, iPad, or other electronic reader that is not also a cell phone. All uses unrelated to class are forbidden: at any given time I may ask you to show me your screen. ***ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST REMAIN OFF. NOT ON VIBRATE: OFF. NO EXCEPTIONS.*** First infraction = -5 points. Second infraction = you drop the course.

VIRGINIA TECH HONOR CODE

www.honorsystem.vt.edu I take our honor code very seriously and so should you. Know what does or does not constitute plagiarism. ***Suspected violations will be reported to the Undergraduate Honor Court.***

READING SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

Changes to this schedule are possible. They will be announced in class and via e-mail.

GE = reading is in Global Ethics book GJ = reading is in Global Justice book
C = reading is in Cahn's book S = reading is on Scholar

Introduction and theory		
Introduction	Syllabus review. Introductory lecture.	W 1/18
	D'Amato: "What is global ethics?" (S 12-13) Rachels: "The challenge of cultural relativism" (C 34-46)	F 1/20
Moral theories	Pojman: "Strengths and weaknesses of utilitarianism" (C 105-113) Nozick: "The Experience Machine" (S 42-45) <i>suggested</i> Mill: "Utilitarianism" (C 93-97 to end of first paragraph)	M 1/23
	Kant: "The Categorical Imperative" (C 79-88) O'Neill: "A simplified account of Kant's ethics" (C 89-92) <i>suggested</i> Kant: <i>Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (S 50-84)	W 1/25
	Mayo: "Virtue ethics" (C 120-122) Held: "The ethics of care" (C 123-128) QUIZ #1 DUE <i>suggested</i> Hume: <i>An Enquiry into the Sources of Morals</i> (S 24-35)	F 1/27
Global issues I		
Poverty & famine relief	Singer: "Famine, affluence, and morality" (C 218-231)	M 1/30
	Arthur: "Hunger and moral obligation: the case against Singer" (C 232-238)	W 2/1
	Hardin: "Lifeboat ethics: the case against helping the poor" (GE 15-27)	F 2/3
Famine relief & global justice	Nagel: "Poverty and food: why charity is not enough" (GJ 49-58)	M 2/6
	O'Neill: "Lifeboat Earth" (GJ 1-18) <i>recommended</i> O'Neill: "Rights, obligations, and world hunger" (GE 139-155)	W 2/8
	Pogge: "'Assisting' the global poor" (GE 534-554) § 2-6 WORKSHOP DUE	F 2/10
Global justice & development	Sen: "Population: delusion and reality" (GE 259-287) <i>recommended</i> Gardiner: "The real tragedy of the commons" (GE 447-457)	M 2/13
	Sen: "The concept of development" (GE 157-174) § 2,3,4,6,7	W 2/15
	Nussbaum: "Human capabilities, female human beings" (GJ 513-525) § 4-5	F 2/17
	Okin: "Gender inequalities and cultural differences" (GE 233-251)	M 2/20
Development & environment	Jaggar: "Global justice for women and intercultural dialogue" (GE 573-585)	W 2/22
	Gardiner: "The real tragedy of the commons" (GE 457-467) § IV-IX Q2 DUE Shue: "Subsistence emissions and luxury emissions" (GE 207-231)	F 2/24 M 2/27
Midterm		
Workshop analysis and midterm review. <i>workshop returned</i>		W 2/29
MIDTERM EXAM. Bring your "cheat sheet." No books, no notes, and no electronic devices.		F 3/2
SPRING BREAK, MARCH 3-11: NO CLASSES THIS WEEK		

Global issues II

Political theories	Hospers: "What libertarianism is" (S 349-356)	M 3/12
	Nielsen: "A moral case for socialism" (S 356-364)	W 3/14
	Rawls: <i>Justice as Fairness: A Restatement</i> (S 282-284) §12 Q3 DUE	F 3/16
	Rawls: <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (C 137-142) <i>midterm returned suggested</i> Rawls: <i>The Law of Peoples</i> (GE 431-444)	M 3/19
Nationality & patriotism	Beitz: "Cosmopolitan ideals and national sentiment" (GE 107-117)	W 3/21
	Miller: "The ethical significance of nationality" (GJ 211-234) Q4 DUE	F 3/23
Philosophical paper writing workshop	Pryor: "Guidelines on writing a philosophy paper" (S)	M 3/26
	Grade sample papers 1-2 with the rubric given and bring them to class (S)	W 3/28
	Grade sample papers 3-4 with the rubric given and bring them to class (S)	F 3/30
Nationality and war	Luban: "Just war and human rights" (GE 29-47)	M 4/2
	Walzer: "The moral standing of states" (GE 58-69) § III-V	W 4/4
	Tan: "Liberal toleration in Rawls's <i>Law of Peoples</i> " (GJ 613-630) Q5 DUE suggested Rawls: <i>The Law of Peoples</i> (GJ 421-460)	F 4/6
War and terrorism	Walzer: "Terrorism" (C 239-248)	M 4/9
	McPherson: "Is terrorism distinctively wrong?" (C 249-254)	W 4/11
	<i>Bible</i> , Genesis 17:1-27. <i>Qur'an</i> 37: 100-109. Video in class. PAPER DUE	F 4/13
Imperialism	Barber: "Jihad vs. McWorld" (S 1-9)	M 4/16
	Hitchens: "Imperialism" (S 10-11)	W 4/18
	Newitz: "When will white people stop making movies like <i>Avatar</i> ?" (S) Movies in class	F 4/20
	Movies in class	M 4/23
	Movies in class	W 4/25
Conclusion	Appiah: "Kindness to strangers" (S 155-174)	F 4/27
	Nietzsche: <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> (S 125-129)	M 4/30
	Rorty: "Who are we?" (GE 313-325) <i>paper returned</i>	

Final

The Truth! + Final exam review	W 5/2
COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM @ 1:05 PM Bring "cheat sheet." No books, notes, or devices.	F 5/4