

Ethics of War and Conflict

(01:730:330:01)

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Office hours: Tuesday 1pm-2pm (or by appointment)

Course Outline

This course will explore moral issues raised by collective violence, primarily by way of sustained critical engagement with the traditional theory of just war. Topics may include the foundations of the right of self-defense, the notion of a just cause for war, necessity and proportionality in war, war-profiteering, national self-defense, civil war, terrorism, drone warfare, the use of torture in war and conflict, economic sanctions and trade wars, foreign electoral subversion, and more.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation – 10%

Take-home Exam – 45%

Essay – 45%

Attendance and Participation

I expect students to come to class with papers read in advance, ready to discuss the relevant issues. The class will be far more engaging for all involved when you actively participate – raise objections, express confusion, discuss your ideas and arguments, bring up current examples that may help make the relevant issues concrete, and more. Throughout the term, I will be taking note of who contributes, ultimately factoring such contribution into the overall grade.

Exam

The exam will be distributed on *March 13th*, the last day of class before Spring Break. Completed exams are due *March 20th*.

Essay

There will be several essay topics to choose from. I am also happy to allow students to choose their own topic – provided, of course, that they run it by me first. Essays are due *May 4th*, though this date is subject to change.

Grade Breakdown

A: 90-100

B+: 85-89

B: 80-84

C+: 75-79

C: 70-74

D: 60-69

F: 0-59

Course Schedule

(Note: no textbook is required for this course. All readings will be made available through Sakai.)

Jan 21st: Introduction

Jan 24th: McMahan, 'The Basis of Moral Liability to Defensive Killing'

Jan 28th: Frowe, 'A Practical Account of Self-Defense'

Jan 31st: Quong, 'Agent-Relative Prerogatives to do Harm'

Feb 4th: Frowe, 'Lesser-Evil Justifications for Harming: Why We're Required to Turn the Trolley'

Feb 7th: McMahan, 'Just Cause for War'

Feb 11th: Hurka, 'Proportionality in the Morality of War'

Feb 14th: Lazar, 'Necessity in Self-Defense and War'

Feb 18th: Statman, 'On the Success Condition for Legitimate Self-Defense'

Feb 21st: Benbaji, 'Legitimate Authority in War'

Feb 25th: Estlund, 'On Following Orders in an Unjust War'

Feb 28th: McMahan, 'Can Soldiers be Expected to Know Whether Their War is Just?'

Mar 3rd: Frowe, 'Guns, Food, and Liability to Attack in War'

Mar 6th: Bazargan, 'Non-Combatant Immunity and War-Profitteering'

Mar 10th: Bazargan, 'Varieties of Contingent Pacifism in War'

Mar 13th: Oberman, 'War and Poverty'

SPRING BREAK

Mar 24th: Tadros, 'Resource Wars'

Mar 27th: Rodin, 'The Myth of National Self-Defense'

Mar 31st: Parry, 'Defensive Harm, Consent, and Intervention'

Apr 3rd: Parry, 'Civil War and Revolution'

Apr 7th: Scheffler, 'Is Terrorism Morally Distinctive?'

Apr 10th: Bazargan, 'Moral Coercion'
Apr 14th: Simpson & Mueller, 'Just War and Robots' Killing'
Apr 17th: McMahan, 'Torture in Principle and in Practice'
Apr 21st: Peirce, 'Just War Principles and Economic Sanctions'
Apr 24th: Fabre, 'The Case for Foreign Electoral Subversion'
Apr 28th: Fabre, 'War Exit'
May 1st: Lazar, 'Scepticism About Jus Post Bellum'

Plagiarism Guidelines

Please be sure to adhere to Rutgers policy on plagiarism and academic integrity. This website should contain the information you need: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Accessibility

As students at Rutgers, you are each entitled to equal access to educational opportunities at this university. (Or to put things in a way we will later come to understand, you each have a *claim-right* against the university that you are afforded such equal access.) Feel free to speak to me about any issues you may have, and please avail yourself of the services provided by the ODS (Office of Disability Services). Here is a link to their website: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Student Wellness

Here are some links that may prove useful during your time here at Rutgers:

Rutgers Student Wellness Program

<https://ubhc.rutgers.edu/swp/index.html>

CAPS

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance

<http://vpva.rutgers.edu/>