

# Ethics of War and Conflict

Fall 2015

## Class Information

Murray Hall 210  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
1:10pm – 2:30pm

## Instructor Information

Ben Bronner  
ben.bronner@rutgers.edu  
Office hours by appointment

## Required Reading

There is no textbook for this course. Monthly reading schedules will be distributed throughout the course, and readings will be made available on the course website. Visit <https://sakai.rutgers.edu> and log in with your NetID and password. Then find the course site for 01:730:330, entitled “Ethics of War & Conflict (Fall 2015)”. Course readings are in a folder under the “Resources” tab.

## Assignments & Grading

- Attendance: 10% of final grade.
- First paper: 40% of final grade. Due Saturday, October 31. Five to six pages.
- Second paper: 50% of final grade. Due Thursday, December 10. Six to seven pages.

Each unexcused absence will result in one percentage point being deducted from the student’s final grade, up to ten percentage points. See the section below on attendance policy.

Papers should be submitted as a word processing document (not PDF) to [ben.bronner@rutgers.edu](mailto:ben.bronner@rutgers.edu), no later than 11:59pm the day they are due. Paper topics and expectations will be discussed at a later date.

Papers will be held to a high standard. If you are not satisfied with your grade on a paper, you may rewrite it in light of the comments I provide. You may rewrite each paper once. No rewrites will be accepted after 11:59pm, Tuesday, December 22.

## Attendance Policy

The recognized grounds for absence are:

1. Illness
2. Curricular or extracurricular activities approved by the instructor
3. Personal obligations claimed by the student and recognized as valid
4. Recognized religious holidays
5. Severe inclement weather causing dangerous travel conditions<sup>1</sup>

Absences should be excused *prior* to the class for which the student is absent, if at all possible.

## Laptop/Tablet/Smartphone Policy

- Laptops, tablets, and smartphones are not to be used in class.
- Research suggests that laptops decrease learning *even when used to take notes*.<sup>2</sup>
- Students who multi-task (rather than just take notes) impair not only their own learning but also that of their peers.<sup>3</sup>
- I will record class meetings and place the files on the course website, along with any PowerPoint slides I use.
- Additionally, students may ask permission to be excepted from this policy — e.g. due to difficulty with taking notes by hand.

## Academic Integrity

- Plagiarism will be taken very seriously, and will likely result in a failing grade for the assignment in question or the course as a whole; and/or report to the Office of Student Conduct, which may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Plagiarism includes not only *word-for-word copying* of others' work without proper attribution, but also *paraphrasing* others' work without proper attribution.

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<sup>1</sup> University policy, found at [policies.rutgers.edu/1027-currentpdf](http://policies.rutgers.edu/1027-currentpdf).

<sup>2</sup> Mueller PA, Oppenheimer DM. 2014. "The pen is mightier than the keyboard," *Psychological Science* 25(6): 1159-68.

<sup>3</sup> Sana F, Weston T, Cepeda NJ. 2013. "Laptop multitasking hinders classroom learning for both users and nearby peers," *Computers & Education* 62: 24-31.

- Proper attribution is required for *all* information and ideas that you derive from other sources — whether written, spoken, freely available on the Internet, etc.
- Judgments about plagiarism can be subtle. If you have any questions, please ask me.
- The university's academic integrity policy can be found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.<sup>4</sup>

### **Statement on Disabilities and Accommodations**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.<sup>5</sup>

### **Learning Goals**

Students will be able to employ the critical skills necessary for evaluating ideas and arguments; construct coherent arguments in support of their views; present accurately and fairly views that differ from their own; write clearly and in an organized manner.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Text largely taken from a university "Sample Syllabus."

<sup>5</sup> University statement, found at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/faculty/syllabus>.

<sup>6</sup> Department goals, found at [http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug\\_current/pg498.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg498.html).

## **Ethics of War and Conflict**

### **Reading Schedule**

**Note:** For readings with an asterisk (\*), only part of the article in question is assigned.

Non-assigned portions have been removed from the files available for download on the course website. Make sure you read the version on the course website, rather than the full version available elsewhere.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Date to be discussed</b>
Just cause	Jeff McMahan, "Just cause for war"* Thomas Hurka, "Liability and just cause"*	9/8 Tuesday
Legitimate authority	Yitzhak Benbaji, "Legitimate authority in war"	9/9 Wednesday
Reasonable hope of success	Daniel Statman, "On the success condition for legitimate self-defense"	9/14 Monday
Proportionality	Jeff McMahan, "Proportionate defense"	9/16 Wednesday
	Thomas Hurka, "Proportionality in the morality of war," sections 1-3	9/21 Monday
Necessity	Eamon Aloyo, "Just war theory and the last of last resort" Jeff McMahan, "The limits of self-defense"*	9/23 Wednesday
Moral equality of combatants	Jeff McMahan, "The ethics of killing in war" Michael Walzer, "Response to McMahan's paper"	9/28 Monday

	Jeff McMahan, "Killing in war: A reply to Walzer"	
	Jeff McMahan, "Can soldiers be expected to know whether their war is unjust?"	9/30 Wednesday
	David Estlund, "On following orders in an unjust war"	10/5 Monday
Non-combatant immunity	Joseph Boyle, "Just war and double effect" Henry Shue, "Targeting civilian infrastructure with smart bombs"	10/7 Wednesday
	Jeff McMahan, "Intention, permissibility, terrorism, and war"	10/12 Monday
	Helen Frowe, "Non-combatant liability in war"	10/14 Wednesday
Force protection	Jeff McMahan, "Gaza: Is Israel fighting a just war?" Thomas Hurka, "Proportionality in the morality of war," section 5 Jeff McMahan, "The just distribution of harm between combatants and non-combatants," sections 1-2	10/19 Monday
Self-defense and war	Helen Frowe, "Self-defense"	10/21 Wednesday
	Frances Kamm, "Self-defense, resistance, and	10/26 Monday

	suicide: The Taliban women"	
	Helen Frowe, "War and self-defense"	10/28 Wednesday
	David Rodin, "The myth of national self-defense" Thomas Hurka, "Proportionality in the morality of war," section 4	11/2 Monday
Pre-emption, prevention, and humanitarian intervention	Helen Frowe, "Just wars?"	11/4 Wednesday
	To Be Determined	11/9 Monday
Terrorism, counter-terrorism, and torture	Helen Frowe, "The moral status of terrorism" OR Igor Primoratz, "Terrorism"	11/11 Wednesday
	To Be Determined	11/16 Monday
	To Be Determined	11/18 Wednesday
	Helen Frowe, "Terrorists, torture and just war theory" OR	11/23 Monday

	Seumas Miller, "Torture"	
	<b>Friday classes meet today. Ethics of War and Conflict will not meet.</b>	11/25 Wednesday
	David Luban, "Unthinking the ticking bomb," section 4  Henry Shue, "Torture in dreamland"  Sam Harris, "In defense of torture"	11/30 Monday
	David Luban, "The war on terrorism and the end of human rights"  Alec D. Walen, "Crossing a moral line: Long-term preventive detention in the war on terror"	12/2 Wednesday
<i>Jus post bellum</i>	Helen Frowe, " <i>Jus post bellum</i> "  OR  Brian Orend, "Justice after war"	12/7 Monday
	Seth Lazar, "Scepticism about <i>jus post bellum</i> "	12/9 Wednesday