

The Ethics of War and Conflict

Instructor: Amir Saemi (saemi.amir@gmail.com)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 12:30-1:30 (With appointment)

Course Description: Wars cause enormous and often unconscionable damage, resulting in the violent deaths of both soldiers and civilians. Yet many believe that wars can sometimes be justified. This class is an introduction to the ethics of modern warfare. *When* should wars be fought, and *how* should wars be fought? Put differently, under what conditions is one nation morally justified in waging war upon another nation, and under what conditions is one soldier morally justified in harming another soldier during war? Related issues shall be discussed, such as the moral status of terrorism, torture, drone combat, and nonviolent resistance.

Required Texts: Helen Frowe *The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction* 2nd Edition. Routledge. Available at the University bookstore.

Course Goals:

Students will be able to think more critically about the conditions under which one nation should engage in warfare against another nation.

Students will be able to think more critically about what's acceptable for soldiers to do while waging war

Students will become more sensitive to the costs and consequences of war, for both combatants and noncombatants

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined by your participation in class (15%), one midterm (20%), one paper assignment (40%), and one final exam (20%).

Participation (15%): Your participation grade will be determined by many factors, including attendance. If you are absent from lecture, then your participation grade will be adjusted downward by a third of a grade (A to A-, A- to B+, etc.). If I see that you are goofing off, or that you are consistently late to lecture, or, or that you are being discourteous, then your participation grade will be adjusted downward.

Midterm (20%): Your midterm will be 11/1/2021. It will be multiple choice questions and conducted online.

Paper (40%): Your paper is due 11/23/2021. It should be approximately 8 pages. You will be provided with a prompt approximately two weeks before the paper is due. If you do not like the prompt, you can write your paper on another topic. But the topic must be related to the course and it must be approved by me. Your paper grade will be adjusted downward by a third (e.g. A to A-, A- to B+, etc.) for each day it's late.

Final Exam (20 %): The final exam is not accumulative. It will be conducted online.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty: *All* written work for the course must be your own. Be sure to cite any works you use, including web sites, books, and articles. Presenting *anyone* else's work as your own is considered plagiarism.

Statement on Academic Freedom: Freedom to teach and learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has adopted a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy # 03.70.02) which can be accessed at the following link: http://policies.temple.edu/getdoc.asp?policy_no=03.70.02.

Grading Scale: The grading scale for the course is as follows:

A = 89.5-100
B+ = 84.5-89.49
B = 79.5-84.49
C+ = 74.5-79.49
C = 69.5-74.49
D = 59.5-69.49
F = 0-59.49

Disabilities: 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>.

Tentative Schedule of Readings

The following schedule is tentative and may be changed with prior notification from the instructor.

Unit 1: Self Defense

Chapter 1: Self Defence

Judith Thomson, "Self-Defense" *

Michael Otsuka, "Killing the Innocent in Self-Defence" *

Warren Quinn, "Actions, Intentions, and Consequences: The Doctrine of Double Effect"

Unit 2: War and Self Defense

Chapter 2: War and Self Defence

Unit 3: Just War Theory (*Jus Ad Bellum*)

Chapter 3: Conditions of *Jus ad Bellum*

Thomas Hurka, "Proportionality in the Morality of War" *

Unit 4: Just War Theory (*Jus Ad Bellum*)

Chapter 4: Just Wars?

Unit 5: Just War Theory (*Jus in Bello*)

Chapter 5: The Conditions of *Jus in Bello*

Thomas Nagel, "War and Massacre" *

Unit 6: The Moral Status of Soldiers

Chapter 6: The Moral Status of Combatants

Jeff McMahan, *Killing in War* (excerpt) *

Unit 7: The Moral Status of Civilians

Chapter 7: Noncombatant Immunity

Amir Saemi and Philip Atkins, "Targeting Human Shields"

Unit 8: The Moral Status of Civilians

Chapter 8: Challenges to Noncombatant Immunity

Unit 9: Terrorism

Chapter 9: The Moral Status of Terrorism

Lionel McPherson, "Is Terrorism Distinctively Wrong?" *

Frances Kamm, "Terror and Collateral Damage" *

Unit 10: Torture

Chapter 10: Terrorists, Torture and Just War Theory

Henry Shue, "Torture" *

Unit 11: Remote Warfare

Chapter 11: Remote Warfare

Jeff McMahan, "Proportionality and Time" *

Unit 12: Just War Theory (*Jus post Bellum*)

Chapter 12: *Jus post Bellum*