PHM 4362: Global Justice
Professor Warren
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Course Description: We live in an increasingly interdependent and interconnected world. Events transpiring in one part of the world can have practical consequences and raise moral concerns for those far away. Poverty, war, human rights’ violations, trade practices, flows of people and capital, sweatshops and child labor, global health and disease, environmental degradation, and the overuse of scarce planetary resources are just some of the contemporary issues that have global dimensions. In recent decades philosophers have turned their attention to these issues and more particularly to the fundamental questions of morality and justice that they raise. These include questions concerning: the structure of the global economic and political order; the role of the state and the idea of state sovereignty; the meaning of the national interest and its relation to democracy; rights of national self-determination; nationalism, patriotism, and multiculturalism; the nature, content, and justification of human rights; realism, communitarianism, and cosmopolitanism as distinct moral and political philosophies; the moral and political significance of global poverty, global inequality, and exploitation; the ethics of war; terrorism, political violence, political resistance, and the right of revolution; colonialism and imperialism; torture; women’s rights; and moral and political obligations related to climate change and the use of common planetary resources. We will study various philosophical attempts to address such questions in an effort deepen our understanding of these important global issues. Course readings will include both classical and contemporary thinkers.

Course Objectives: Course learning objectives include increased awareness of global problems, the philosophical questions they involve, and the development of a philosophically informed perspective on those problems and questions. Additional learning objectives include the enhancement of thinking and writing skills. Thinking skills include: the explanation and critical evaluation of arguments; the analysis fundamental ideas and concepts; and the identification of underlying assumptions or logical implications. Writing skills include the ability to: develop and defend a thesis through argumentation; interpret a thinker or explain a text; critically assess a position; and explore a concept or idea.

Text: The Global Justice Reader (=GJR), edited by Thom Brooks

Moodle Course Shell: All required course readings, plus additional readings, study questions, and other materials are posted on the Moodle course shell. All enrolled students should have access.

Course Requirements:

Short Paper (20%): Students must write a short analytical and critical paper, roughly three to five (3-5) pages in length, typed double-spaced (equivalent to 750-1250 words), focused on one or more of the assigned course readings. Short papers can be used as launching points for long papers. Due date: February 21
Exams (40%): Students must take exams on March 7 (20%) and April 18 (20%). Examinations will test students on their comprehension of material from course readings and lectures. They will include multiple choice questions and short answer or short essay.

Long Paper (40%): All students must write a long paper, roughly ten to twelve (10-12) pages in length, typed double-spaced (equivalent to 2500-3000 words) and due on April 16. Students must meet with the professor before Spring break to get approval for their paper proposal. Paper proposals should be roughly one page in length and should explain the nature of the project or problem that the paper is intended to address, outline the main arguments or claims that the paper will seek to examine or defend, and list relevant readings and sources to be used. Papers will be judged in accordance with standards of clarity and coherence of exposition, comprehension of ideas and concepts, quality of research, and rigor of analysis and argumentation.

Extra Credit: Students can earn 10% extra credit by participating in a community engagement activity or making a presentation at the FIU Global Learning Conference in April. Early in the semester someone from the FIU Office of Global Learning Initiatives will explain these opportunities to the class.

Important: Written work must be submitted to the professor in person or placed in the professor’s mailbox having been signed and dated by the Philosophy Department’s secretary (DM 347). Electronic submissions will only be accepted in unusual circumstances or with prior permission of the professor. Late work will be accepted, but subject to penalty.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class, participate in class discussion, and keep up with the reading assignments. Good class attendance and participation will be used in the student’s favor in the event of a borderline final grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism consists in presenting the written words of someone else as your own. It is easy to avoid: when using someone else’s words place quotation marks at the beginning and end of the phrases or sentences used and identify the source. Students caught plagiarizing will be subject to University Policy.

Schedule and Reading Assignments:

January 8-10 (Week 1): Introduction to Course and Sovereignty

Background Reading: (1) Daniel Philpot, “Sovereignty,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Required Readings: (2) Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (GJR, 5-17)

Further Readings: (3) Charles Beitz, “A State of Nature” (GJR, 18-44)

January 15-17 (Week 2): Rights to Self-Determination

Background Reading: (4) Allen Buchanan, “Secession,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
Required Readings:  (5) Avishai Margalit and Joseph Raz, “National Self-Determination” (GJR, 77-92)
(6) Allen Buchanan, “Theories of Secession” (GJR, 94-112)

Further Reading:  (7) John Locke, Second Treatise of Civil Government, Sect. 2-3, 9, 18-19

January 22-24 (Week 3): Human Rights


Required Readings:  (9) Universal Declaration of Human Rights (GJR, 120-123)
(10) Charles Beitz, “Human Rights as a Common Concern” (GJR, 145-163)
(11) David Sussman, “What’s Wrong with Torture?” (GJR, 189-207)

Further Reading:  (12) Henry Shue, “Torture”

January 29-31 (Week 4): Nationalism and Patriotism

Background Reading:  (13) Nenad Miscevic, “Nationalism,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Required Readings:  (14) Robert Goodin, “What’s So Special about our Fellow Countrymen? (GJR, 264-276)
(15) Martha Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism” (GJR, 306-313)

Further Reading:  (16) David Miller, “The Ethics of Nationality” (GJR, 284-302)

February 5-7 (Week 5): Cosmopolitanism and Democratic Internationalism

Background Reading:  (17) Pauline Kleingeld and Eric Brown, “Cosmopolitanism,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Required Readings:  (19) Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace” (GJR, 319-330)
(20) Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto, Sections 1 & 2
(21) Alan Gilbert, “Marx on Internationalism and War”

Further Reading:  (22) Jurgen Habermas, “Kant’s Idea of Perpetual Peace, with the benefit of Two Hundred Years’ hindsight” (GJR, 332-354)
(23) V.I. Lenin, “Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism”

February 12-14 (Week 6): Rawls’ Law of Peoples


Further Reading: (26) Thomas Pogge, “An Egalitarian Law of Peoples” (GJR, 237-257)

February 19-21 (Week 7): Global Poverty and International Distributive Justice

Background Reading: (27) Michael Blake, “International Justice,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Required Readings: (28) Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (GJR, 387-395)
(29) Leif Wenar, “What We Owe to Distant Others” (GJR, 397-409)

Further Reading: (30) Lisa Fuller, “Poverty Relief, Global Institutions, and the Problem of Compliance” (GJR, 454-464)

February 26-28 (Week 8): Global Poverty and International Distributive Justice (continued)

Background Reading: (31) “Interview with philosopher Thomas Pogge on the fight against poverty”


Further Reading: (34) Thomas Nagel, “The Problem of Global Justice” (GJR, 416-438)

March 5-7 (Week 9): Review (March 5) & First Exam (March 7)

March 11-16 (Week 10): Spring Break!

March 19-21 (Week 11): War and Terrorism

Background Reading: (35) Brian Orend, “War,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Required Readings: (36) St. Thomas Aquinas, “War, Sedition and Killing” (GJR, 469-478)
(37) J.S. Mill, “A Few Words on Non-Intervention” (GJR, 479-484)
(38) United Nations, Charter (GJR, 485-487)
(39) Michael Walzer, “Anticipations” (GJR, 502-510)

Further Reading: (40) Noam Chomsky, “Statement to the United Nations on the Responsibility to Protect”

March 26-28 (Week 12): War and Terrorism (continued)

Background Reading: (41) Igor Primoratz, “Terrorism,” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

Required Readings: (42) Thomas Nagel, “War and Massacre” (GJR, 488-500)
April 2-4 (Week 13): Women and Global Justice

Background Reading: (45) Sally Haslanger & Nancy Tuana, “Topics in Feminism,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Required Readings: (46) Susan Okin, “Is Multiculturalism bad for Women?” (GJR, 588-596)
(47) Martha Nussbaum, “Capabilities as Fundamental Entitlements: Sen and Social Justice” (GJR, 598-611)

Further Reading: (48) Martha Nussbaum, “The Role of Religion” (GJR, 615-639)

April 9-11 (Week 14): International Environmental Justice

Background Reading: (49) Andrew Brennan and Y.S. Lo, “Environmental Ethics,” Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

Required Readings: (50) Peter Singer, “One Atmosphere” (GJR, 667-686)
(51) Simon Caney, “Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change” (GJR, 689-707)

April 16-18 (Week 15): Long Paper Due/Review (April 16)
Second Exam (April 18)