AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

How should we think about moral problems in global politics? What does it mean to think, and act, ethically in the world? What role do ‘ethics’ play in international relations? What is the relationship between ethics, politics and power? The aim of this course is to provide students with the necessary tools to think critically about theories and issues related to international ethics. International ethics is a rapidly expanding field within the discipline of International Relations; this growth has been driven partly by developments in related fields of moral and political philosophy, as well as by the evident moral urgency of many contemporary global problems – including questions of poverty and inequality, and the ethics of war and conflict. This course will begin by looking at competing theoretical perspectives on international ethics. We will then go on to examine issues and problems in international ethics, including the ethics of war, poverty, ‘sweatshops’, humanitarianism and humanitarian intervention. By the end of the course you should have a strong grasp of dominant and critical theoretical approaches to international ethics; you should also be able to use these approaches to make sense of the way ethical arguments work in international politics.

STRUCTURE AND ASSESSMENT

The course is organized as a seminar and meets weekly for three hours. Seminars will normally begin with a brief introduction from the instructor; this will be followed by presentations, general discussion and debate. The final class of the term will be reserved for student presentations of their research papers.
**ASSESSMENT:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (attendance, seminar participation)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Reading Responses (dates to be assigned)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Proposal (due Week 9, Nov 8)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Presentation (week 13, Dec 6)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper: (due week 13, Dec 6)</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Participation:** Attendance at weekly seminars is mandatory. Your participation grade will be based on your attendance at these meetings throughout the term, as well as the quality and quantity of your participation in discussions. Students are expected to have completed the required reading before the seminar and to arrive prepared to discuss that week’s material. To earn an ‘A’ grade for participation, you must have perfect or near perfect attendance, and have made regular, informed contributions to the discussion. If you have to miss a seminar for a legitimate reason, please inform me as soon as possible (preferably before the seminar). All students are required to show respect for the instructor and the other students in the group during presentations and group discussions. **The use of laptops/iPads/smartphones in class will be restricted to consulting electronic versions of readings or occasional consultation of the internet when necessary.**

**Reading Responses:** Students will submit and present 2 reading responses. Due dates for submission and presentation of reading responses will be chosen on Week 1. Reading responses should be between 3 and 5 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font), and set out (briefly!) the key ideas of the week’s readings (including, where possible, ideas that overlap across the readings), and your responses to these ideas (insights, questions, critiques, etc.). You must include at least two discussion questions arising from the reading. You only need to use the course readings for the week for these, but when you cite them they should be properly documented. Reading responses should be e-mailed to the instructor -- ([Fiona_Robinson@carleton.ca](mailto:Fiona_Robinson@carleton.ca)) -- BEFORE class on the due dates. A hard copy will be submitted to the instructor in class. **Students should come to class prepared to present their reading responses to class as a means of leading off discussion.**

**Research Paper Proposal:** All students will submit a research paper proposal. The proposal should be approximately 2-3 pages (12-pt, single-spaced), and should include the following: a) a working title; b) a research question; c) a
working argument/thesis; d) a paragraph outlining the direction or the analysis and issues to be addressed; and e) an annotated bibliography (at least 5 sources beyond class readings). It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that students consult with the instructor (in person during office hours or by e-mail) on the topic before submitting the proposal.

**Research Paper Presentation:** All students will be required to present their final papers in final class. Presentations will be short (the exact length of the presentations will depend on the number of students in the class). The paper presentation will be worth 5% of the final mark. Presentations will be marked on coherence and organization, strength of the main argument, sophistication of the analysis, and clarity of the verbal delivery.

**Final Research Paper:** All students will be required to write one substantial research essay (18 - 22 pages). The essay will be on a topic of the student’s choice related to the general topic of ethics and international relations. Essay topics may be purely theoretical; however, in most cases, students will choose to address a particular ethical issue or problem in IR. However, all essays must have a clear theoretical framework or ‘lens’ through which they examine the issue(s) in question. Research essays should be e-mailed to me by 10am on Monday December 6th. During the final class, students will have an opportunity to share the arguments, analyses and conclusions of their essays with the rest of the class. This final presentation will be worth 5% of the final mark.

**READINGS**

Many of the readings for this course are available on-line through the Library’s electronic journals. All other readings (in books) have been placed on reserve in the Library.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

**Submission of Written Assignments:** Students must submit an electronic version of the reading responses (to be e-mailed to the instructor BEFORE class on the due date) and hard copies of their reading responses and essays. Students who are unable to submit their written assignments on time may deposit them in the Departmental “Drop Box” (a mail slot in the wall) located in the corridor outside of room B640 Loeb. Assignments are retrieved once every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. Assignments submitted after 4:00pm will be date stamped as received the next business day. Late submissions will be accepted but penalized by one third of a letter grade per day (e.g. from A- to B+) (Friday to Monday will count as one day!) for up to
seven calendar days. Written assignments will not be accepted after one week without consultation with the instructor.
Extensions will be granted at the discretion of the course instructor and only for serious and documented medical reasons or for other emergency personal circumstances. Requests for extensions submitted after the due date will not be considered. It is the students’ responsibility to manage their time effectively.

Office hours and e-mail: If you wish to discuss any aspect of the course with me, please attend my office hours (posted above). If you cannot make it to my office hours, please see me in class to arrange an alternate meeting time. Please DO NOT e-mail me regarding questions you have concerning the course (unless it is a brief procedural or information-related question requiring a brief answer). Students are strongly encouraged to meet with me during my office hours to discuss their essay topic and progress.

WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1   Introduction
Sept 6   This week will go through the course outline, discuss expectations and aims for the course, and assign reading responses and presentations.

Week 2   How do Ethical Arguments work? Ethics, Power, Politics.
Sept 13


Week 3   Realism, Idealism and International Ethics
Sept 20
Duncan Bell, ‘Political Realism and the limits of Ethics’ in Duncan Bell, ed., Ethics and World Politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.


Week 4 Constructivists and other Moral Rationalists in IR
Sept 27


Week 5 Beyond Rationalism in International Ethics
Oct 4


**Week 6 Global Justice**

Oct 11


**Week 7 Poverty**

Oct 18


**Week 8**

Global Labour Standards: The Sweatshop Debate  
Oct 25


Sujeet Sennik (2013) ‘I designed that cheap garment. I lit that factory fire in Bangladesh’ *The Globe and Mail*, Friday, Jan. 18 2013,


**No class Friday November 1st; Fall Term Reading Week – classes suspended.**

**Week 9** The Ethics of War  
Nov 8


**Week 10** Humanitarianism and Humanitarian Intervention  
Nov 15


**Week 11   Citizenship, Borders, Sovereignty   Nov 22**


**Week 12   Everyday Activism, Global Citizenship   Nov 29**


Week 13 Paper Presentations
Dec 6

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
• using another’s data or research findings;
• failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
• handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit [http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety](http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety) or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.