Global Justice

Government 340                                           Mr. Moon
Fall, 2016 311 PAC, ext. 2495
T, Th 8:50-10:10 Office hours: MW 2:50 - 4:10, Thursdays 10:20 to 11:40, and by app’t
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This course examines the moral and political issues that arise in the context of international society. Is the use of violence by states limited by moral rules, and could there be such a thing as a just war? Are there human rights that all states must respect? Should violations of those rights be adjudicated in international courts? Are states justified in enforcing such rights beyond their own borders? Is a system of independent states morally legitimate? What, if any, are the grounds on which states can claim freedom from interference by other states and actors in their "internal" affairs? Must all legitimate states be democracies? Do states and/or individuals have an obligation to provide assistance to foreign states and citizens? Are there any requirements of international distributive justice?

Books: The following titles are available for purchase at Broad St. Books, and are on reserve at Olin:

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 5th ed. (Basic) 978-0-465-05271-4

Course Expectations and Requirements: A class is a cooperative endeavor, in which we work together to explore a subject. Each of us brings a unique background and perspective to the class, and each contributes by engaging with each other and with the readings and other class material. We need to listen sympathetically and respectfully in order to understand each other’s concerns and points of view. At the same time, we need to engage critically, raising questions to clarify and deepen the discussion. That will only work if everyone comes to class prepared to listen thoughtfully and having done the reading. All participants have the responsibility to make class discussions fruitful, which means that everyone must do the reading and think about the issues prior to class. Thinking about the readings means being prepared to state and explain the key concepts used by an author, to outline the main thesis or theses in two or three concise sentences, to set out the core argument(s) of the text(s), and to present your own assessment of its persuasiveness.

I have listed the readings for each meeting of class in the syllabus, though we may not adhere strictly to that schedule since the course of our discussions cannot be fully predicted. If you have any question about what you should have read before a particular class meeting you should get in touch with me. I have tried to make the readings manageable, keeping them to under 150 pages most weeks (though page count is problematic due to variations in font size and in the difficulty of the readings).

In addition to readings and class participation, there will be two 6-8 page papers, a 10-12 page term paper, and a final exercise. Papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
1. analytical rigor (logic, precision, clarity of argument, consideration of counterarguments, etc.)
2. originality / creativity
3. scholarship (accurate representation of authors cited, other works engaged with when appropriate, quality of research if a research paper, etc)
4. mechanics (quality of prose, grammar, spelling, citation of sources, etc.)

All work is to be done in accordance with the Honor Code.

For my part, I am committed to being accessible in and outside of the classroom. I will hold regular office hours and am available to meet at other times by appointment; you should feel free to contact me by e-mail, and I will get back to you within a reasonable amount of time. I will also make every effort to read your papers quickly and to provide constructive feedback on your work. I am happy to meet or correspond with you about your ideas before you write a paper, and to read outlines and drafts. I also promise to be demanding but not crazy in assigning grades. A paper in the “B” range is a good paper: it will be well argued with a clear thesis, showing a strong command of the materials of the class, and will be well written. An “A” paper is an excellent paper: it will have the strengths of a “B” paper but to a higher degree, and it will reflect original and creative thinking about the issues. A paper in the “C” range is one that does not adequately meet one of the first three criteria.

Disability Resources: Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

Syllabus (journal articles can be found in the “quick links” folder under “articles, journals & databases” on the library homepage; the journal locator is on the right side of the page when you click the “articles, etc. ” link; readings marked with an asterisk * are on e-reserve; all books for the course are on reserve in Olin)

I. The Moral and Political Character of International Relations

II. Nationality, Cosmopolitanism, and National Self-Determination

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III. Rawls

classes 8, 9, 9/29, 10/4: John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*.

First paper due Friday, October 7, by noon as an e-mail attachment

IV. Rights

class 10, 11, 10/6, 11: Beitz, *The Idea of Human Rights*

Review Rawls, ¶10

V. Global Distributive Justice


Second paper due Saturday, October 22 by 9 AM as an e-mail attachment

October 25: Fall Break
VI. The Idea of Justice of and in War  
   Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars, chs 2 - 7.  
   class 16, 11/01: Walzer, chs 8 - 13  
   class 17, 11/03: Walzer, chs 14 - 17  
   class 18, 11/08: Walzer, chs 18 - Afterword  

Term paper prospectus due Friday, November 11 by noon as an e-mail attachment  

VII. Critical issues  

VIII. War Today: asymmetric conflict  
   class 25, 12/06 Michael Gross, Moral Dilemmas of Modern War, chs 1, 2, 5, 6  
   class 26, 12/08 Michael Gross, Moral Dilemmas of Modern War, ch 8, 10  

Term paper due Friday, December 9  

Final exam Saturday, December 17, 9 - noon