

Seminar on Global Justice (Phil. 397): Spring 2011

Instructor: Dr. Arash Naraghi

Office location: Zinzendorf 201

Email: anaraghi@moravian.edu

Phone: (610) 625-7835

Office Hours: Tuesday 10 am-11am, Wednesday 4pm-5pm and by appointment.

Lectures: MW 2:35pm- 3:45pm, Main St. Campus, Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex, 301.

Course Description:

This course is on Global Justice. For centuries, moral reflection on international relations was focused on matters of war and peace. However, since World War II, other themes have become more prominent due to increasing global interdependence and an erosion of sovereignty. Among all other global issues, world poverty is the greatest source of avoidable human misery, and it raises the urgent question of justice at global level. Matters of global justice are moral matters that concern how global and international institutions should be structured so as to ensure that persons' justified claims are met. So the main focus of this course is the morality of the distribution of fundamental entitlements and duties by major global and international institutions. In the first part of the course, we very briefly discuss different theories of justice presented by John Rawls, Robert Nozick. In the second part, we discuss, inter alia, the following questions: What are persons owed as a matter of fundamental human rights? What are the bases, if any, of duties of global justice? Does justice require global institutions that would distribute wealth and income in ways that are to some extent contrary to market distributions? If so, which principles should form the basis of such a redistribution? Which goods should be the focus of global distributive justice? Who is entitled to own and control the world's natural resources? What sort of restrictions, if any, on immigration are just? What should be the scope of governing institutions? What rules should govern in cases in which persons want to secede from an existing state? Which duties, if any, are owed only to compatriots or conationals? What is the basis of state sovereignty and what are its limits? How democratic ought global institutions to be? etc.

Course Objectives:

- To develop a substantial understanding of major contemporary theories of justice
- To have a substantial understanding of major moral global issues.
- To be able to analyze statements and arguments vigorously, to understand them with sympathy, and to evaluate them fairly.
- To learn how to think and write philosophy explicitly, clearly, and succinctly.

Required Texts:

Global Justice: Seminal Essays, eds. Thomas Pogge and Darrel Moellendorf, Paragon House (March 1, 2008)

Additional sources will be posted on Blackboard.

The book is available at Moravian College Book Store.

Note: You will find that you get the most out of the course if you read each assignment before lecture and then re-read the assignment after the lecture.

Lecture attendance:

It is not possible to perform well in the course without attending lectures regularly. We will cover substantial amounts of material in the lectures not necessarily included anywhere in the readings. It is highly unlikely that you will learn this material adequately by, e.g., borrowing your friend's lecture notes. You have two class sessions you can miss with no question asked. Beyond those two class sessions, any further missed classes without a really good excuse (involving a note from your doctor, psychiatrist, parole officer, etc.) will cost you 2% of your final grade.

Important Note: Please turn off your cell phones before walking into class! If you are having an emergency that requires you to have your cell phone on, please tell me at the beginning of class. No text messaging is allowed during the class, and the use of computers should be strictly confined to the things directly related to the class.

Academic honesty:

Students are required to honor academic integrity. The course imposes the application of Moravian College's Academic Honesty Policy. The policy is to be found at Moravian College's *Student Handbook*.

Course requirements:

- (1) A regular final exam, scheduled for **Monday, May 6, 2011, 8:30AM**, plus a midterm (tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, March 2, 2011**). You will receive a Study Guide for the Midterm and Final Exams prior to the exams to know what kind of questions you should expect on the Midterm and Final Exams. Make up final exam will be administered only under the most extraordinary of circumstances, and only in light of appropriate supporting documents.
- (2) One paper (1500-2000 words). On Wednesday, April 6, 2011, you will receive the paper topic. The paper due is **Monday, April 18, 2011**. Paper should be typed, double spaced, and spell-checked. You are responsible to submit a hard copy of your paper. In some exceptional cases, you may be allowed to submit your paper through email. If so, you must receive a confirmation email from me, otherwise, you must assume that I have not received your paper. If the paper is turned in late without prior permission, the grade will be adjusted downwards by a third of a grade for each day the paper is late (e.g., A to A-, A- to B+, B+ to B, etc.). It is always helpful to discuss the draft of your paper with your friends, roommates, or classmates so as to solicit feedback.
- (3) You will be required to write weekly short paragraphs (not more than two pages) consist of your critical evaluation of the material to be discussed in the class. In the paragraphs, you should concentrate on a specific concept, theme or question. You are required to complete 10 assignments of this sort by the end of the semester, that is, you have the option of choosing 10 out of roughly 13 assignments I am to assign throughout the semester. Every week, by the end of our Wednesday class, the assignments should be submitted.

Important note: *By the end of the semester, all four above-mentioned requirements (midterm exam, final exam, weekly assignments, and paper) must be completed in order to pass the course. In order words, if you miss at least one of the above requirements, we will fail the course automatically.*

Grading:

Final Exam: 30% - Midterm Exam: 30%- Paper: 20% - Weekly Paragraphs: 20%.

The grading scale is as follows:

Points	Grade	4-point conversion
95-100	A	4
90-95	A-	3.7
87-90	B+	3.3
84-87	B	3
80-84	B-	2.7
77-80	C+	2.3
74-77	C	2
70-74	C-	1.7
67-70	D+	1.3
64-67	D	1
60-64	D-	0.7
0-60	F	0

Tentative Lecture Schedule:

Part I: Theoretical issues:

1. Theories of Distributive Justice: Nozick and Rawls: January 17, 19, 24, 26.

Readings:

- (1) “The Entitlement Theory” (Robert Nozick)—Will be posted on Blackboard.
- (2) “Justice as Fairness” (John Rawls) ---- Will be posted on Blackboard.
- (3) “Justice as Fairness as a Political Conception of Justice” (John Rawls) ---Will be posted on Blackboard.

2. Global Distributive Justice: January 31, Feb. 2, 7, 9.

Readings:

- (1) “The Law of People”, John Rawls, in *Global Justice*, pp.421- 460.
- (2) “An Egalitarian law of Peoples”, Thomas Pogge, in *Global Justice*, pp. 461-494.

3. Cosmopolitanism:

(i) Utilitarianism:, Feb.14, 16, 21.

Readings:

- (1) “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (Peter Singer) --- Will be posted on Blackboard.
- (2) “Lifeboat Ethics: The case Against Helping the Poor” (Garrett Hardin) --- Will be posted on Blackboard.

(ii) Basic Human Rights: Feb. 23, 28.

Readings:

- (1) Henry Shue, Chapters 1-2 of *Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and US. Foreign Policy*, in *Global Justice*, pp. 83- 144.

On Feb. 23, you will receive the Study Guide for the midterm exam.

On Feb. 28, we will have a review session for the midterm exam.

March 2, Midterm Exam.

(iii) The Obligations of Justice: March 14, 16.

Readings:

- (1) “Lifeboat Earth”, Onora O’Neill in *Global Justice*, pp. 1- 20.

- (2) "Humanity and Justice in Global Perspective", Brian Barry, in *Global Justice*, pp. 179-209.

4. Communitarianism: March 21, 23, 28.

Readings:

- (1) "The Ethical Significance of Nationality", David Miller, in *Global Justice*, pp. 235-254.
(2) "The Distribution of Membership", Michael Walzer, in *Global Justice*, pp. 145-178.

Part II. Practical issues:

1. Immigration: March 30, April, 4.

Readings:

- (1) "Aliens and Citizens: The case for Open Borders", Joseph H. Carens, in *Global Justice*, pp. 211- 234.
(2) "Citizenship and National Identity: Some Reflection on the Future of Europe", Jurgen Habermas, in *Global Justice*, pp.285- 310.

2. Humanitarian Intervention: April 6, 11.

- (1) "Just War and Human Rights", (David Luban) ---- Will be posted on Blackboard.
(2) "The Moral Standing of States: A Response to Four Critics" (Michael Walzer) ---- will be posted on Blackboard.

On April 6, the paper topic will be assigned.

3. Gender: April 13, 18.

- (1) "Human Capabilities, Female Human Rights", Martha Nussbaum, in *Global Justice*, pp. 495- 553.
(2) "Gender Inequality and Cultural Differences", (Susan Moller Okin) --- Will be posted on Blackboard.

The paper due is on April, 18.

4. World Hunger: April 20, 25.

- (1) "Rights, Obligations and World Hunger", (Onora O'Neill) --- Will be posted on Blackboard.
(2) "'Assisting' the Global Poor", (Thomas Pogge) ---- Will be posted on Blackboard.

On April 20, you will receive the Study Guide for the Final Exam.

On April 27, the review session for the Final will be held.

The Final Exam will be held on Monday, May 6, 2011, 8:30AM, Main St. Campus, Priscilla Payne Hurd Academic Complex, 301.

Important Notes:

- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510).
- The Writing Center is located in a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1392. The Writing Center tutors will make arrangements with the student who needs tutoring services to meet in an accessible location, such as the library or a study/conference room in PPHAC.