

Justice in World Politics

POSC208, Dickinson College, Fall 2013.

Class meetings: Monday and Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. in 311 Denny Hall.

Professor: (Jason) Toby Reiner.

Contact Details

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Office hours: Wednesday 3 – 5, Friday 10.30 – 12, and by appointment.

Please note, as per the course requirements, that students are required to attend my office hours on at least two occasions during the semester, including on at least one occasion before the end of September.

Course Overview

What is the relationship between political philosophy and world politics? Not very much, if you believe realists, who hold that the anarchic international system is a state of nature in which the struggle for survival rules out any possibility of morality playing a role in decision-making. Rather more, if you believe those recent political theorists who have applied the techniques of normative and conceptual analysis to international developments. In this class, we will concentrate on four main topics, which can be conveniently tied together as 4Ss of justice in world politics: the distribution of resources across the globe (subsistence), the ethics of war, including the decision to go to war, the conduct of war, and rebuilding after the war, (security), the limitations on human activity imposed by the damage to the environment (sustainability), and the legitimacy of immigration restrictions (status). We will try to consider the relationship between the global and the local, and will illustrate this by visiting the fracking sites at Centralia, PA. As part of the course, you will also have to produce a research paper and I will encourage you to engage with local communities and questions of sustainability when doing so.

These topics show how political philosophy speaks to major issues that have an enormous impact on people's lives throughout the globe. Without careful analysis, we cannot evaluate the various policy options. It is the contention of the class, therefore, that political philosophy is inescapable, and that the boundaries between it and other aspects of political science are far smaller than is commonly recognized. The contribution of political philosophy is to ensure clear thinking and to delineate conceptual possibilities. You should come away from the class with a better understanding of the underpinning of our decisions on when and how to fight, on how to avoid conflict, on international aid and development projects, on maintaining the planet into the future, and on whom to admit as immigrants.

Schedule of Topics

Section 1: What is International Political Theory?

Week 1 (Monday August 26 and Wednesday August 28)

What Does Political Theory have to do with World Politics?

Reading: For Wednesday: 1. Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, pp. 3 – 10 (Moodle). 2. Milner, “International Relations,” pp. 214 – 223 (Moodle). 3. Pogge, “Cosmopolitanism,” pp. 312 – 330 (Moodle).

Section 2: Justice and the Distribution of Resources (Subsistence)

Week 2 (Monday September 2 and Wednesday September 4)

Poverty or Inequality, Humanitarianism or Justice?

Reading: For Monday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 1-40. 2. Van Parijs, “International Distributive Justice,” pp. 638-650 (Moodle). For Wednesday: 1. Satz, “International Economic Justice,” pp. 620-641 (Moodle). 2. Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality,” pp. 229-243 (Moodle).

Week 3 (Monday September 9 and Wednesday September 11)

Justice and the Question of Nationality: Egalitarian and Minimalist Approaches.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 41-69. 2. Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, pp. 143-161 (Moodle). For Wednesday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 71-103. 2. Miller, *On Nationality*, pp. 49-80 (Moodle).

Week 4 (Monday September 16 and Wednesday September 18)

Justice and Questions of Rights: Redistribution and Immigration.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 107-136. 2. Sen, *Development as Freedom*, pp. 87-110 (Moodle). For Wednesday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 221-251. 2. Pogge, “Migration and Poverty,” pp. 710-719 (Moodle).

Week 5 (Monday September 23 and Wednesday September 25)

Global and Local: Justice and the Economy.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 163-188. 2. Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, pp. 196-218 (Moodle). For Wednesday: No reading.

Note: Class on Wednesday will be a library training session on how to define topics for the research paper and on how to compile a preliminary list of sources.

Section 3: Justice and the Environment (Sustainability)

Week 6 (Monday September 30 and Wednesday October 2)

Justice and the Question of Natural Resources.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 137-162. 2. Pogge, *World Poverty and Human Rights*, pp. 196-215 (Moodle). 3. Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, pp. 136-143 (Moodle). For Wednesday: We will go on a class trip to Centralia, and discuss the relationship between the question of entitlements to natural resources and next week's topic of climate change. To help with this, SKIM Eckersley, *The Green State*, pp. 79-104 (Moodle).

Week 7 (Monday October 7 and Wednesday October 9)

Climate Change and the Ambit of Justice.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice*, pp. 189-220. 2. Roberts and Parks, *A Climate of Injustice*, pp. 211-242 (Moodle). For Wednesday: 1. Eckersley, *The Green State*, pp. 115-139 (Moodle). 2. Dobson, *Green Political Thought*, pp. 28-52 (Moodle).

Week 8 (Monday October 14)

Reading: No reading. The midterm will be held in class and will cover everything we have studied so far.

Section 4: Justice and the Ethics of Migration (Status)

Week 8 (Wednesday October 16)

Justice and the Question of Membership.

Reading: For Wednesday – 1. Kukathas, “Immigration,” pp. 567-588 (Moodle).

Week 9 (Monday October 21 and Wednesday October 23)

The cases for and against open borders.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Carens, “Aliens and Citizens,” pp. 251-273 (Moodle). 2. Shue, *Basic Rights*, pp. 13-34 (Moodle). For Wednesday: 1. Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, pp. 31-63 (Moodle). 2. Wellman and Cole, *Debating the Ethics of Migration*, pp. 1-9.

Week 10 (Monday October 28 and Wednesday October 30)

Freedom of association and the right to exclude.

Reading: For Monday: no reading. For Wednesday: Wellman, *Debating the Ethics of Immigration*, pp. 13-56.

Note: Class on Monday will be a library training session on how to annotate sources.

Week 11 (Monday November 4 and Wednesday November 6)

Equal Opportunities and the Status of States.

Reading: For Monday: Cole, *Debating the Ethics of Immigration*, pp. 173-233. For Wednesday: 1. Wellman, *Debating the Ethics of Immigration*, pp. 117-142. 2. Cole, *Debating the Ethics of Immigration*, pp. 293-313.

Section 5: Justice and the Ethics of War (Security)

Week 12 (Monday November 11 and Wednesday November 13)

The stages of just war theory: resort to war (jus ad bellum), conduct in war (jus in bello), and post-war reconstruction (jus post bellum).

Reading: For Monday: 1. Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 1-30. 2. Anscombe, “Just War: The Case of World War II,” pp. 623-635 (Moodle). For Wednesday: Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 31-104.

Week 13 (Monday November 18)

Justice during war (jus in bello).

Reading: For Monday: 1. Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 105-139. 2. McMahan, *Killing in War*, pp. 203-235 (Moodle).

Note: No class on Wednesday November 20, because of Thanksgiving.

Week 14 (Monday November 25 and Wednesday November 27)

Justice after war (jus post bellum) and justice in emergency.

Reading: For Monday: Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 160-219. For Wednesday: 1. Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 140-159. 2. Walzer, *Arguing About War*, pp. 33-50 (Moodle).

Week 15 (Monday December 2 and Wednesday December 4)

Alternatives to Just War Theory: Realism and Pacifism.

Reading: For Monday: 1. Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 223-243. 2. Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, pp. 3-33 (Moodle). For Wednesday: 1. Orend, *The Morality of War*, pp. 244-268. 2. Ramsey, *The Just War*, p. 259-278 (Moodle). 3. Coates, *The Ethics of War*, pp. 77-95 (Moodle).

Note: There will be an optional review session for the final at some point after the final class.

Class Assignments and Course Requirements

1. A **final paper**, 10 pages in length, worth 20% of the class grade. The paper will be due on **Wednesday December 4th**. You will be responsible for developing a paper topic of your own and will be expected to do a small amount of outside research using resources not assigned in the class itself. For that reason, the class meeting on **Wednesday September 25** will be on library research.
2. A **paper proposal**, worth 5% of the class grade. The proposal should outline the problem that you wish to study, and provide a list of 10 sources that you will use. The paper proposal is due on **Monday October 7**. The proposal should be two pages long. The first page should summarize the topic, while the second should list the sources. Of the 10 sources, no more than three of them may be drawn from the class reading list.
3. An **annotated bibliography**, worth 10% of the class grade. In the bibliography, you should provide a one-page summary of the main points of seven of the sources that you will use in your paper. The library training session on **Monday October 28** will teach you how to do this. The annotated bibliographies are due in class on **Monday November 4**.
4. A **paper outline**, that provides a section-by-section account of your topic. The outline is due on **Monday November 18**, should be 3 or 4 pages long, and counts for 10% of the class grade.
5. A **midterm exam**, to be held in class on **Monday October 14**. The midterm will count for 20% of your grade and will be made up of an essay and three short-answer questions.
6. A **final exam**, to be held on **Saturday December 14 at 2 p.m.** The final will count for 20% of your grade and will be made up of two essays.
7. An **in-class presentation** in which you will both summarize the argument of the reading, and apply it to a news topic of your choice, explain why you agree or disagree with it. The presentation will count for 5% of your grade.
8. **Participation in class**, which will count for 10% of your grade. Students are expected to come to class having done the reading and to contribute to class discussion.

Book List

All students need access to the following books, which are available at the campus bookstore and on reserve at the library.

1. Brian Orend, *The Morality of War*, (Broadview Press, 2006), ISBN: 1-55111-727-4.
2. Chris Armstrong, *Global Distributive Justice: An Introduction*, (Cambridge University Press, 2012), ISBN: 1107401402.
3. Christopher Heath Wellman and Phillip Cole, *Debating the Ethics of Immigration: Is There a Right to Exclude?* (Oxford University Press, 2011), ISBN: 0199731721.

The other class readings will be available on Moodle.

Be sure to do ALL the class reading, and to read actively, taking notes, and making sure that you grasp the major arguments and the reasons offered for them. Reading *before* class is the most important thing you can do to improve your enjoyment and performance. The more of the readings you have done before class, the more you will be able to understand the lecture and participate in the discussion and debate.

Discussion and debate are crucial to political theory. The lectures will include time for you to raise questions and make arguments. Sometimes I will give you questions to think about before class. At other times I will give you time in class to think and jot down notes on a topic. More generally, get to know your classmates, and discuss political ideas with them. Your written work must be your own, but you will have more fun learning about the ideas and deciding what you think about them, if you do so collaboratively.

Additional Information

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory and I will take role during every class meeting. Students are allowed **two** absences from class across the semester. Any additional absence will negatively affect your participation grade. For every absence beyond the second, the student will lose one point from their grade. After five absences, you will lose two points for each additional absence. Any student who misses class on more than 10 occasions will automatically fail the class. *Every student who misses class, for whatever reason, must submit a three-page summary of the reading for that class.*

Violations of the Academic Code of Conduct

Students must cite their sources meticulously in all assignments completed outside the classroom. Not to do so is to be guilty of plagiarism. To plagiarize is to use without proper citation or acknowledgment the words, ideas, or work of another. Plagiarism is a form of cheating that refers to several types of unacknowledged borrowing. Plagiarism is a violation of the Academic Code of Conduct.

Any student who plagiarizes material, or who cheats in any other way, will be charged with plagiarism or cheating.

Students who plagiarize, or who violate the Academic Code of Conduct in any other way, will receive a failing grade for the course, and be placed on stayed suspension from the College for one semester

Students with Disabilities

Dickinson College makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. I am available to discuss the implementation of those accommodations. Students requesting accommodations must first register with Disability Services to verify their eligibility. After documentation review, Marni Jones, Director of Learning Skills and Disability Services, will provide eligible students with accommodation letters for their professors. Students must obtain a new letter every semester and meet with each relevant professor prior to any accommodations being implemented. These meetings should occur during the first three weeks of the semester (except for unusual circumstances), and at least one week before any testing accommodations. Disability Services is located in Biddle House. Address inquiries to Stephanie Anderberg at 717-245-1734 or email disabilityservices@dickinson.edu. For more information, see the Disability Services website: www.dickinson.edu/disabilityservices