

PHIL 114 - Fall 2016

M/W/F 1:30-2:20

BRNG 1268

Instructor: Taylor Davis

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Global Moral Issues

The aim of this course is to provide a general introduction to the field of global ethics. This involves both an introduction to moral theory in general and an introduction to moral issues that are specifically global, in some sense. We begin with a general consideration of the scope of moral obligation: what do we owe to distant strangers from different cultures, and for what may we hold them accountable? We then turn to focus on specific domains in which questions of global ethics arise, including questions of international justice, human rights, gender equality, foreign aid and development, and environmental sustainability. Along the way, we will consider these issues from the differing perspectives offered by different theories of ethics in general.

Required Texts:

- *Global Ethics: An Introduction*, by Kimberley Hutchings (2010). Polity Press.
- *Cosmopolitanism*, by Kwame Anthony Appiah (2006). W. W. Norton & Co.
- Additional articles made available on Blackboard

Evaluation:

Essay 1 (2-3 pages):	15%
Essay 2 (4-5 pages):	20%
Essay 3 (4-5 pages):	25%
Final Exam:	30%
Attendance / Participation:	10%

Office Hours:

Location: Beering 7136

Mon & Wed: 3:45 - 4:45

Or by appointment, if needed—send me an email.

Attendance and Make up Policy:

Note that 10% of your grade is attendance and participation. I expect students to be in class and to be prepared, having already read *and thought about* the material. These readings are not to be passively consumed, so if you have no questions or comments about them, then you probably aren't actually engaging with the material.

That said, I also assume, by default, that everyone is participating, so everyone begins the course with all 10 participation points. This means that as long as you don't stand out in some way as someone whose participation is lacking, you will get full credit for participation. I may not notice if you miss one or two classes, or go two or three weeks without making a comment in class. But if I realize halfway through the term that I've never heard your voice, or if you are missing from class for two full weeks, then I have a way to enforce standards.

If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to keep up with the readings, and to find out whether you missed any key announcements in class. Contact me or another student to follow up.

I encourage students to drop by my office during office hours to further discuss issues from class, and especially to discuss essay writing strategy. If you are unable to come to my office hours, please feel free send me an email so we can set up an appointment.

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities.

Essays:

Three essays are required: one "short" one (2-3 pages) and two "long" ones (4-5 pages). The assignments will be posted on Blackboard. I will also post a separate document providing general rules and guidelines for writing essays. In addition, we will discuss essay writing in class.

Papers not turned in by the end of class on the day they are due are LATE. For each day late, 7 points will be deducted.

Papers will be submitted online, through Blackboard, and will be checked for originality, in order to identify plagiarism.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be cumulative, and it will be comprised of both essay and short answer questions. Since the final is such a large portion of your grade, the last day of class will be set aside for a review session. However, I will not plan anything for this day; *you are responsible for making the review session useful*. You will drive the agenda by bringing in your own questions.

Plagiarism:

There will be zero tolerance for plagiarism in this course. Plagiarized papers will receive a 0, the student will automatically fail the course, and her name will be given to the university authorities.

The internet has made plagiarism an increasingly serious problem at universities around the country, particularly in classes like this one, where papers determine a substantial part of the grade. In order to avoid plagiarizing from a source, both direct quotations and paraphrases or summaries of material must be acknowledged. When in doubt, cite your sources! It is the best way to avoid being accused of plagiarism. Please ask in class if you have any questions about how to properly cite sources.

The Online Writing Lab also has useful info about how to correctly cite your sources:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>

A Note about Philosophy on the Internet:

Internet sources on philosophy can *sometimes* be useful for getting a very broad grasp of positions and debates, but most of these sources are just horrible – sketchy, convoluted, misinformed, and often simply wrong. If you wish to consult online resources, use these:

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Devices:

I'll assume that anyone looking at a phone is not participating. Laptop computers are allowed *only for taking notes*. Note that almost anything you do other than taking notes will probably distract the other people around you, which is why many instructors don't allow laptops in class at all. If I see the other people around you looking at your computer screen, I'll get suspicious, and start asking questions. I also reserve the right to ban laptops completely if they prove too distracting.

Emergencies:

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and even grading percentages are subject to change. Information about emergency changes in the course can be obtained by consulting the course website, or, if necessary by contacting me via email or phone. Purdue's Emergency Procedures Handbook and other important emergency planning information are available online at: http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/

Reading List & Assignment Schedule

- Dates for essay assignments are fixed as posted here.
- Dates for reading assignments are more flexible. What matters is the order of the reading list, not the day on which readings are discussed, so the pace of your reading should just follow the pace of the lectures.

- 1) Aug 22 Overview
- 2) Aug 24 *Cosmopolitanism*, Introduction, p. xi-xxi
- 3) Aug 26 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 1, p. 1-12
- 4) Aug 29 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 2, p. 13-32
- 5) Aug 31 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 3, p. 33-44
- 6) Sept 2 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 4, sections 1-4, p. 45-57
- 7) Sept 7 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 4, sections 5-8, p. 57-68
- 8) Sept 9 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 5, p. 69-86
- 9) Sept 12 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 6, p. 87-100
- 10) Sept 14 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 7, p. 101-114
- 11) Sept 16** *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 9, p. 137-154 - **Essay #1 due**
- 12) Sept 19 *Cosmopolitanism*, Chapter 10, p. 155-174
- 13) Sept 21 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 1, p. 1-13
- 14) Sept 23 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 1, p. 14-27
- 15) Sept 26 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 2, p. 28-38
- 16) Sept 28 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 2, p. 38-53
- 17) Sept 30 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 3, p. 54-66
- 18) Oct 3 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 3, p. 66-82
- 19) Oct 5 "Famine, Affluence and Morality," Peter Singer
- Oct 7 NO CLASS
- Oct 10 OCTOBER BREAK
- 20) Oct 12 "Famine, Affluence and Morality" Peter Singer
- 21) Oct 14 "Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor" Garrett Hardin
- 22) Oct 17 "Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor" Garrett Hardin
- 23) Oct 19 "The Real Tragedy of the Commons" Stephen M. Gardiner
- 24) Oct 21** "The Real Tragedy of the Commons" Stephen M. Gardiner – **Essay #2 due**

- 25) Oct 24 “Subsistence Emissions and Luxury Emissions” Henry Shue
- 26) Oct 26 “Subsistence Emissions and Luxury Emissions” Henry Shue
- 27) Oct 28 “Rights, Obligations and World Hunger” Onora O’Neill
- 28) Oct 31 “Rights, Obligations and World Hunger” Onora O’Neill
- 29) Nov 2 “The Concept of Development” Amartya Sen
- 30) Nov 4 “The Concept of Development” Amartya Sen
- 31) Nov 7 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 4, p. 83-90
- 32) Nov 9 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 4, p. 90-110
- 33) Nov 11 “Population: Delusion and Reality” Amartya Sen
- 34) Nov 14 “Gender Inequality and Cultural Differences” Susan Moller Okin
- 35) Nov 16 “Gender Inequality and Cultural Differences” Susan Moller Okin
- 36) Nov 18 “Saving Amina: Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue”
Alison M. Jaggar
- 37) Nov 21 “Saving Amina: Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue”
Alison M. Jaggar
- THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 38) Nov 28 “Who Are We? Moral Universalism and Economic Triage” Richard Rorty
- 39) Nov 30 “Who Are We? Moral Universalism and Economic Triage” Richard Rorty
- 40) Dec 2** *Global Ethics*, Chapter 5, p. 110-125 – **Essay #3 due**
- 41) Dec 5 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 5, p. 125-136
- 42) Dec 7 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 8, p. 197-211
- 43) Dec 9 *Global Ethics*, Chapter 8, p. 211-221

FINAL EXAM: TBA