



GLOBAL ETHICS
REL 3938 (section 075C), Spring 2016

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Class schedule: Tuesdays 5th-6th periods, Thursdays 5th
Room: Turlington 2350
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45-2:45 and by appointment

ABOUT THE CLASS

This course will explore the ethical dimensions of global social, political, and environmental issues. Students will learn about diverse theoretical approaches in philosophical and religious ethics and then use those approaches to understand and evaluate the moral issues involved in contemporary global issues, including human rights, war and peace, climate change, and public health. In examining these case studies, students will learn to “do ethics” in a rigorous way, identifying the moral aspects of a social, political, economic, or environmental

problem; defining and analyzing the issues clearly; and evaluating the ways different theoretical and methodological approaches help clarify and address the problems.

We will pay particular attention to the roles of religion and cultural traditions in the emergence of problems, in people's interpretations of and responses to them, and in the development of solutions. We will also address the relationship between different scales – e.g., local, regional, and national – in both the emergence of these issues and the efforts to understand and address them.

GLOBAL STUDIES OBJECTIVES

1. SLO1 (Content): Students will learn to identify and describe global problems that have ethical dimensions, understand the origins of these problems, and explain their contemporary situations and ramifications.
2. SLO2 (Critical Thinking): Students will analyze and interpret the ethical dimensions of global and intercultural issues, learning to identify the core values and claims involved and the ways that people seek to realize these values in concrete situations.
3. SLO3 (Communication): Students will learn to understand the significance of cultural and religious diversity in the analysis of global problems and also in efforts to resolve these problems.

POLICIES, RULES, AND RESOURCES

1. *Handing in Assignments*: Place all papers *in my mailbox* in the Religion Department, 107 Anderson Hall. DO NOT slip them under the door or leave them on the door of my office or the department office. Please keep a dated electronic copy of all papers.
2. *Late or Make-Up Assignments*: You may take an exam early or receive an extension on an assignment only in extraordinary circumstances and with prior approval. If an extension is not granted, the assignment will be marked down ½ grade (e.g., from B+ to B) for each day late.
3. *Completion of All Assignments*: You must complete all written and oral assignments and fulfill the requirement for class participation in order to pass the course. I will not average a grade that is missing any assignment or requirement.
4. *Attendance and Participation*: Class attendance is required. Do not register for this class if you cannot arrive on time. Students should arrive on time and prepared to discuss the day's readings. Tardiness harms your understanding of the material and disrupts the class. After the first late arrival, I reserve the right to mark you absent. I will *not* provide notes or discuss material that has already been covered for students who arrive late, barring extraordinary circumstances (which do not include failing to find a parking place or sleeping in).
5. *Common Courtesy*: Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. Students who receive or make calls during class will be asked to leave. You may take notes on a tablet or laptop, although I may ask you to turn it off if circumstances warrant.

Students engaging in disruptive behavior (e.g., whispering, reading a newspaper) may be asked to leave. If that occurs, the student will be marked absent for the day.

6. *Honor Code*: On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The university specifically prohibits cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, conspiracy, and fabrication. For more information about the definition of these terms and other aspects of the Honesty Guidelines, see <http://www.chem.ufl.edu/~itl/honor.html>. Any student(s) demonstrated to have cheated, plagiarized, or otherwise violated the Honor Code in *any assignment* for this course will fail the course. In addition, violations of the Academic Honesty Guidelines shall result in judicial action and the sanctions listed in paragraph XI of the Student Conduct Code.

7. *Accommodation for Disabilities*: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student, who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

8. *Counseling Resources*: Resources available on-campus for students include the following:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling;
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling;
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.

9. *Software Use*: All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate.

READINGS

Books will be available on reserve at Library West in addition to the UF bookstore.

1. Kimberly Hutchings, *Global Ethics: An Introduction* (Polity Press, 2010)
2. Richard T. Ford, *Universal Rights Down to Earth* (Norton, 2012)
3. Jonathan Wolff, *The Human Right to Health* (Norton 2013).
4. Nigel Dower, *The Ethics of War and Peace* (Polity, 2009)
5. James Garvey, *The Ethics of Climate Change: Right and Wrong in a Warming World* (Bloomsbury, 2008).

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Additional short articles will be assigned for March 24-31 and possibly other classes as well. For additional readings, I will post pdf's on the course Canvas e-learning site and/or provide links for web-based readings, including the UN Declaration on Human Rights (Feb. 9).

REQUIREMENTS

Full instructions and assignment details will be provided for each of the out of class essays at least ten days before the due date.

1. *Participation* (10% of final grade). Participation requires consistent attendance, punctual arrival, and close reading of all assigned texts. You should complete the readings before class each day and be prepared to answer questions and participate actively in class discussions. I may give pop quizzes on the readings if students are consistently unprepared.
2. *First short essay, due Friday, January 29* (25% of final grade). Analyze foundational claims and relative strengths and weaknesses of diverse theories in religious and philosophical ethics, with particular attention to their helpfulness in examining global issues. The essay should be 3-4 pages long.
3. *In-class essay on human rights, Tuesday, Feb. 23* (15% of final grade). Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human rights theory and its application to global health issues.
4. *Second short essay, due Friday, April 1* (25% of final grade). Reflect on the problem of war and peace from different ethical perspectives. Students will have to apply two or more distinct ethical theories and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each in relation to global political violence. The essay should be 3-4 pages long.
5. *Third short essay, due Monday, April 25* (25% of final grade). Create a dialogue between representatives of two different religious traditions, analyzing the ethical issues at stake on climate change and the best way to begin addressing that problem. The essay should be 3-4 pages long.

IMPORTANT: Your sources will include both written texts and *at least one interview with a representative of a religious tradition*. The interview can be conducted in person or over the phone. You must contact your interview subject and confirm his or her willingness to be interviewed in advance. On Thurs., February 25 we will have a fieldwork day for you to research and/or contact potential interview subjects. You should have a confirmed interview subject and submit her or his name and position by Friday, March 11.

SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic/Readings</u>
Tu. 1/5	Introduction to the class
Th 1/7	Introduction to ethical theory

- Tu 1/12 Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 1: What is Global Ethics?
- Th 1/14 Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 2: Rationalist Ethical Theories
- Tu 1/19 Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 3: Alternatives to Ethical Rationalism
- Th 1/21 Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 4: Ethics of International Aid and Development and Ch. 5: Global Distributive Justice
- Tu 1/26 Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 6: Ethics of War, and Ch. 7: Making and Sustaining Peace
- Th 1/28 Hutchings, *Global Ethics*, Ch. 8: Global Ethics in a Glocal Context
- Fri 1/29 * FIRST ESSAY DUE by 4:00 pm in my mailbox in 107 Anderson Hall
- Tu 2/2 Human Rights: Ford, *University Rights Down to Earth*, part 1
- Th 2/4 Human Rights: Ford, *University Rights Down to Earth*, part 2 and conclusion
- Tu 2/9 Wolff, *The Human Right to Health*, Ch. 1 and the UN Declaration on Human Rights (<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>)
- Th 2/11 Human Right to Health: Wolff, *The Human Right to Health*, Ch. 2
- Tu 2/16 Human Right to Health: Wolff, *The Human Right to Health*, Ch. 3: HIV/AIDS
- Th 2/18 Human Right to Health: Wolff, *The Human Right to Health*, Ch. 4 and 5
- Tu 2/23 IN-CLASS ESSAY ON HUMAN RIGHTS
- Th 2/25 * FIELDWORK DAY: Research your climate change interview subject
- Week of 2/29 SPRING BREAK
- Tu 3/8 War and Peace: Dower, *Ethics of War and Peace*, Ch. 1
- Th 3/10 War and Peace: Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace*, Ch. 2-3
- Fri 3/11 SUBMIT NAME OF CLIMATE CHANGE INTERVIEW SUBJECT
- Tu 3/15 War and Peace: Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace*, Ch. 4

- Th 3/17 War and Peace: Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace*, Ch. 5-6
- Tu 3/22 War and Peace: Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace*, Ch. 7-8
- Th 3/24 Just war theory: Christian perspectives - additional readings on Canvas
- Tu 3/29 Just war theory: Muslim perspectives - additional readings on Canvas
- Th 3/31 Pacifism: Christian perspectives - additional readings on Canvas
- Fri. April 1 * SECOND SHORT ESSAY DUE by 4:00 pm in my mailbox in 107 Anderson
- Tu 4/5 Climate Change: Garvey, *Ethics of Climate Change*, Ch. 1-2
- Th 4/7 Climate Change: Garvey, *Ethics of Climate Change*, Ch. 3
- Tu 4/12 Climate Change: Garvey, *Ethics of Climate Change*, Ch. 4
- Th 4/15 Climate Change: Garvey, *Ethics of Climate Change*, Ch. 5
- Tu 4/19 Climate Change: Garvey, *Ethics of Climate Change*, Ch. 6
- Mon. 4/25 THIRD SHORT ESSAY DUE by 4:00 pm in my mailbox in 107 Anderson

GRADING SCALE

IMPORTANT: You must receive a "C" or better in order to receive major, minor, General Education, Gordon Rule or College Basic Distribution credit.

A	93-100 (4.0)	A-	90-93 (3.67)		
B+	87-89 (3.33)	B	84-86 (3.0)	B-	80-83 (2.67)
C+	77-79 (2.33)	C	74-76 (2.0)	C-	70-73 (1.67)
D+	67-69 (1.33)	D	64-66 (1.0)	D-	60-63 (0.67)
E	Below 60 (0)				