

**Spring 2011 – PHIL / POLISCI 28 – Ethics & Society II**

MW 1:00 - 1:50, CENTER 101

TAs: Derek Liu, Nanhee Byrnes, Hippolyte Goux

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**Course Description**

We will explore contemporary thought on the morality of war. We will focus on the conceptual foundations of the morality of war, rather than on the morality of particular wars (though we will invoke particular wars in applying candidate theories). Examples of issues that we will address include (but are not limited to):

- *The Conditions for a Morally Permissible Resort to War*  
 What are the conditions for a morally permissible resort to war, besides that of having a just cause?  
 Can preemptive or preventive wars be morally permissible?  
 Are the only morally justified causes for a resort to war self-defensive in nature?  
 When it is morally impermissible to wage a war with only morally justified causes?
- *The Liability of Civilians and Combatants*  
 To what degree, if any, are civilians to blame for unjust wars fought by their government?  
 Are combatants fighting on the unjust side in a war morally responsible for doing so?  
 Is it morally permissible to attack combatants on the just side in a war?  
 What is the basis of moral liability to attack in war?
- *Morally Permissible Conduct in a War*  
 Can terrorism be morally permissible?  
 Is there a moral difference between terrorism and strategic bombing?  
 Should the conditions determining permissible conduct in a war depend on the whether the war is just?  
 Should the conditions determining permissible conduct in a war be the same for all sides in a war?

**Grading**

There will be three in-class short-answer tests, each worth 30% of your total grade. Each test will be the same length, and will be non-cumulative. Study questions will be provided at least one week before each test. Attendance at discussion is worth 10% of your total grade.

*Grading Scale -*  
 96.6 - 100: A+  
 93.3 - 96.5: A  
 90.0 - 93.2: A-  
 86.6 - 89.9: B+  
 83.3 - 86.5: B  
 80.0 - 83.2: B-  
 76.6 - 79.9: C+  
 73.3 - 76.5: C  
 70.0 - 73.2: C-  
 ...and so on

Excuses for missed tests or absences at discussion will be granted for religious observances provided that the instructor is informed beforehand. A missed test can be rescheduled for later dates only in cases of very serious emergencies (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) provided suitable evidence is provided.

**Readings**

There is not much reading for this course. But you are expected to read the material very carefully. All readings for this class are digital documents which can found on the course reserves:

<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/resources/course-reserves/index.html>

(Please note the instructions for off-campus access if you are connecting outside of UCSD.)

**Academic Integrity**

Any violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Details regarding what counts as cheating can be found here: [academicintegrity.ucsd.edu](http://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu). Consult the site or an instructor if you have any doubts or questions regarding what counts as cheating.

**Contact & Misc.**

I am available at office hours by appointment. You can set an appointment by talking to me right after class, or by contacting me via email. I will email you, at times, with administrative updates or to elaborate on a point made in class.

Unless you have language or hearing difficulties, I prefer that you refrain from recording lecture.

## **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE – Subject to Change!**

### **Mon., March 28**

about the class  
no reading for next time

### **Wed., March 30**

basic issues in the ethics of war  
reading for next time:  
Shue, "Chapter 28 – War"

### **Mon., April 4**

basic issues in the ethics of war (cont.)  
reading for next time:  
Reichberg, "Just War and Regular War: Competing Paradigms" (to §10.2)

### **Wed., April 6**

history of the ethics of war: the Just War paradigm  
reading for next time:  
Reichberg, "Just War and Regular War: Competing Paradigms" (§10.2 to end)

### **Mon., April 11**

history of the ethics of war: the Regular War paradigm  
reading for next time:  
McMahan, "The Morality of War and the Law of War" (to §2.4)

### **Wed., April 13**

theoretical justifications for the Regular War paradigm  
reading for next time:  
McMahan, "The Morality of War and the Law of War" (§2.4 to end)

### **Mon., April 18**

practical justifications for the Regular War paradigm  
no reading for next time

### **Wed., April 20**

EXAM 1  
reading for next time:  
Kutz, "The Difference Uniforms Make" (to p.12)

### **Mon., April 25**

defense of the moral equality of combatants  
reading for next time:  
Kutz, "The Difference Uniforms Make" (p.12 to end)

### **Wed., April 27**

defense of the moral equality of combatants (cont.)  
reading for next time:  
McMahan "Collectivist Defenses of the Moral Equality of Combatants"

### **Mon., May 2**

criticism of collectivist defenses of the moral Equality of combatants  
reading for next time:  
Primoratz, "Walzer's Just War Theory: Issues of Responsibility" (to §3)

liability of combatants to attack in war

reading for next time:  
Primoratz, "Walzer's Just War Theory: Issues of Responsibility" (§3 to end)

### **Mon., May 9**

civilians immunity in war  
no reading for next time

### **Wed., May 11**

EXAM 2  
reading for next time:  
Hurka, "Proportionality and the Morality of War" (to §3)

### **Mon., May 16**

the constraint of proportionality in jus ad bellum  
reading for next time:  
Hurka, "Proportionality and the Morality of War" (§3 to end)

### **Wed., May 18**

the constraint of proportionality in jus ad bellum (cont.)  
reading for next time:  
McMahan, "Pacifism and Moral Theory" (to §5)

### **Mon., May 23**

contingent pacifism in war  
reading for next time:  
McMahan, "Pacifism and Moral Theory" (§5 to end)

### **Wed., May 25**

contingent pacifism in war (cont.)  
reading for next time:  
(TBD)

### **Fri., May 30**

NO CLASS

### **Wed., June 1**

terrorism in war  
no reading for next time

### **Thu., June 9, 11:30a. FINAL**

EXAM 3

### **Wed., May 4**