

Eckerd College
International Relations and Global Affairs
Spring 2018
PO 341S-001

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Ethics and International Relations

TF, 1:40-3:10; CMLS 099

Course Description

Is ethical action in international affairs possible—or does the absence of a global moral consensus and a central world government doom states and citizens to the amoral pursuit of clashing national interests? The course begins by considering contrasting ethical and moral arguments to these issues by philosophers and social thinkers (e.g., Thucydides, Machiavelli, Kant and Marx). We will then explore the dimensions of historical ethical responsibility from the colonial period, with a specific examination of Belgium’s rule in the Congo. In addition, we will utilize an ethical lens to examine U.S. foreign policy both during the Cold War (in Iran, Vietnam, Chile, and Guatemala) and in the modern era (in Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan, and Iraq). We will also study specific issues in contemporary international politics: intervention and the use of force, human rights and humanitarian assistance, and the moral responsibilities of leaders and citizens. And finally, we will investigate whether FDR’s vision of the “Four Freedoms” provides an ethical foundation for foreign policy in the 21st century.

Required Texts

Mark R. Amstutz, *International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics*, 4th Edition (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2013).

Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, “Four Freedoms” pamphlet.

Adam Hochschild, *King Leopold’s Ghost: A Story of Greed, Terror, and Heroism in Colonial Africa* (N.Y.: Houghton Mifflin, 1999).

Stephen Kinzer, *Overthrow: America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq* (N.Y.: Times Books, 2006).

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 5th edition, (N.Y.: Basic Books, 1977).

Office Hours

Monday: 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Please stop by my office to discuss any questions or concerns about the class (or to chat).

Course Requirements

*One 7-8 page critical book review (from the list provided) **due on May 1** (30%).

*Think Papers (30%).

*Class Participation (15%).

*Final Examination (25%).

*You should also regularly follow the progress of current international issues (Israel/Palestine, Iraq, Syria, the refugee crisis, immigration, human rights in China, gay rights in Africa, political rights in Russia, and so on) by reading a national newspaper, such as *The New York Times* or the *Christian Science Monitor*, every day. Much of our class discussion will be directed to these current issues.

*Class attendance is mandatory. One grade is automatically deducted from any student who has more than two unexcused absences.

Think Papers

In-class “think papers” are designed to help you focus on some of the key issues raised in the readings. I will pose questions that will allow you to demonstrate to me that you have not only done the reading, but also intellectually grappled with the issues the authors discusses. Class discussion will often focus on the responses to these “think papers.” You should come to each class prepared for the possibility that you will be asked to comment in writing on the reading.

I will keep a log assessing and keeping track of your responses. Your answers will be graded on a 0 - 2 point scale:

2 = thoughtful response that clearly incorporates the reading;

1 = grappled with the question, but didn’t incorporate the reading;

0 = did not turn in an answer.

Honor Code

All students are expected to uphold the Eckerd College honor code:

“On my honor, as an Eckerd College student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to tolerate these behaviors in others.”

You are required to write “pledged” on every assignment (critical book review, think papers, exams, and so on) to indicate that your work is consistent with the Honor Code.

Classroom Technology Policy

All digital and electronic devices, including laptops, ipads, e-readers, and cell phones, should not be visible and should not be turned on during class. The classroom is a place where we gather to exchange ideas in person, and to give and receive respect for those ideas. For that reason cell phones and all electronic devices should be turned off and put away during class. They should not be visible to you or others.

Accessible Education Services

If you have a disability or believe that you qualify for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or other laws, please contact Accessible Education Services at extension 8248 or via email at aes@eckerd.edu as soon as possible. Appropriate accommodations can only be arranged through that office, and may not be made retroactively.

Eckerd College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Accessible Education Services (located in Edmundson Hall) at extension 8248 or via email at aes@eckerd.edu.

Students with physical, cognitive, or psychological disabilities must contact Accessible Education Services, located in Edmundson Hall, at extension 8248 or via email at aes@eckerd.edu to discuss potential accommodations of other helpful services. All information will be kept confidential.

Title IX Reporting Policy

Eckerd College is committed to fostering a campus community based on respect and nonviolence. To this end, we recognize that all Eckerd community members are responsible for ensuring that our community is free from discrimination, gender bias, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. In accordance with Title IX, Eckerd is legally obligated to investigate incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault that occur on our campus. Faculty who become aware of an incident of sexual violence, including harassment, rape, sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, are required by law to notify Eckerd's Title IX Coordinator. The purpose of this disclosure is to ensure that students are made aware of their reporting options and resources for support. For more information about your rights and reporting options at Eckerd, including confidential and anonymous reporting options, please visit <http://www.eckerd.edu/titleix/>.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Jan 30 Overview

I. The Problem of Morality in International Affairs

Feb 2 Morality and Foreign Policy
Amstutz, chs. 1, 2 (1-44)

Feb 6 Ethical Traditions
Amstutz, chs. 3, 4 (45-90)

Feb 9 Human Rights and Reconciliation
Amstutz, chs. 5, 6 (91-134)

Feb 13 Foreign Intervention—sanctions and force
Amstutz, chs. 9, 10 (177-223)

Feb 16 International and Global Justice
Amstutz, chs. 11, 12 and conclusion (225-271)

II. Historical Ethical Responsibility: The Colonial Period

Feb 20 Colonial Africa
Hochschild, 1-74

Feb 23 King Leopold
Hochschild, 75-149

Feb 27 The Great Forgetting
Hochschild, 150-224

March 2 Ethical and Moral Responsibility
Hochschild, 225-318

III. Ethics and the Use of Force

March 6 Classical Just War Theory
Walzer, Part I (3-50)

March 7 CPS: Professor Felice will discuss his book *The Ethics of Interdependence: Global Human Rights and Duties* at 7:00pm in Fox Hall. Required; replaces class on March 9.

March 13 *Jus ad bellum*: Aggression, Self-Defense, and Intervention
Walzer, Part II (51-126)

March 16 *Jus in bello*: War-fighting and Necessity
Walzer, Part III (127-224)

Spring Break: March 17 – 25

March 27 War Crimes and Terrorism
Walzer, Part IV and V (225-335)

March 30 Good Friday – no class

IV. Ethics & U.S. Foreign Policy: The Imperial Era

April 3 Hawaii, Cuba, The Philippines
Kinzer, Intro & chs 1, 2 (1-55)

April 6 Central America
Kinzer, chs 3, 4 (56-108)

V. Ethics & U.S. Foreign Policy: Covert Action

April 10 Iran and Guatemala
Kinzer, chs 5, 6 (111-147)

April 13 Vietnam and Chile
Kinzer, chs 7, 8 (148-194)

April 17 Chile (cont)
Kinzer, ch 9 (195-216)

VI. Ethics & U.S. Foreign Policy: Invasions

April 20 Grenada and Panama
Kinzer, chs 10, 11 (219-259)

April 24 Afghanistan and Iraq
Kinzer, chs 12, 13, & 14 (260-322)

April 26 CPS: Dolores Huerta will speak on the farmworkers struggle in the U.S. at 7:30pm in Fox Hall. Required: replaces class on 4/27.

**VII. The “Four Freedoms”: Toward an Ethical Foreign Policy
Critical Book Review Presentations**

May 1 Carnegie Council Pamphlet
Student Presentations
CRITICAL BOOK REVIEW DUE

May 4 Carnegie Council Pamphlet
Student Presentations

May 8 Carnegie Council Pamphlet
Student Presentations

May 11 Review

**May 15 Final Exam – 11:30am – 2:30pm
(Tuesday)**