

Global Justice

Eastern Michigan University

Fall 2017

Political Science 379 E & G

TR: 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Pray-Harold 419

Professor: Ebrahim K. Soltani

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Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 8:30-10:00 a.m. & by appointment

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Course Description:

Global justice is one of the most important and perhaps the hottest topic in political philosophy and political science today. It is at the heart of some of the most exciting work in these fields too. Traditionally, justice has been primarily about domestic justice within state borders. This narrow focus has been transformed in recent years to a vast literature of genuine significance. Global justice covers diverse topics such as cosmopolitanism, nationalism, global poverty, global governance, universal human rights, immigration, just war and humanitarian intervention, citizenship, democratic equality, and multiculturalism. In this course, we try to address questions like: What are the bases, if any, of duties of global justice? Does justice require global institutions that would distribute wealth and income in ways that are to some extent contrary to market distributions? If so, which principles should form the basis of such redistribution? Which goods should be the focus of global distributive justice? Who is entitled to own and control the world's natural resources? What sort of restrictions, if any, on immigration are just? What should be the scope of governing institutions? What rules should govern in cases in which persons want to secede from an existing state? What is the basis of state sovereignty and what are its limits? How democratic ought global institutions to be?

Course Requirements:

Attendance (10%): You are expected to attend each class and arrive on time. Attendance is essential for success in this class and is *mandatory*. Lectures will critically reinforce and supplement readings. I take attendance at the beginning of each class. If you miss a class session, then your final grade will be penalized. However, this penalty will be waived, if you write an adequate one page response to the assigned reading for the class session you missed and submit this response by the next class session. However, A student who is absent for any reason from **more than three classes** per semester may be not allowed to sit for the exam and receive an “F” for the course.

Participation (10%): I intend to devote a significant proportion of class time to discussing the assigned texts, and expect active participation from all students. This includes listening attentively to other students when they are speaking.

Mid-term, Final Exams (15%, 15%): There will be two in-class exams You will receive a study guide for each of these exams to know what kind of questions you should expect.

Papers (50%):

This course is a **Writing Intensive** course and will develop your skills in specialized research and in written communication strategies that are specific to the discipline of political science. The course satisfies the General Education/Writing Intensive requirement for the Political Science, Political Theory, and International Affairs majors, because it addresses the following objectives:

- Develop and employ successful, flexible writing and reading strategies that support sustained inquiry in a discipline.
- Use writing strategies that achieve the purposes for writing and address the expectations of audiences within a disciplinary context.
- Formulate research questions and employ strategies for researching and responding to questions.
- Use discipline-specific genres to communicate information.
- Understand conventions for communicating, disseminating, and interpreting information within a discipline.

In this course, you will be responsible for writing two types of writing assignments:

1. **Five reaction papers (10%):** You will be required to write five weekly short reaction papers (not more than two pages) consist of your critical evaluation of the material to be discussed in the class. In these papers you should concentrate on a specific concept, theme or question. You are required to complete five assignments of this sort by the end of the semester.
2. **A research paper (40%):** You will be required to write a final paper (10-12 pages). In order to provide formative feedback on your assignments and to ensure that you are on track, you need to:
 - Select a relevant topic and submit it on **September 26**.
 - Provide a bibliography, a road map, and be able to explain your main question/argument on **October 5**.
 - Critically review the literature and submit a two to three pages literature review on **October 17** (5%).
 - Submit the first draft of your paper (6-8 pages) on **November 14** (10%).
 - Submit your final paper (10-12 pages) on **December 12** (25%).

Your papers should be typed using a standard 12-point font (such as Times New Roman). The body should be double-spaced with 1-inch margins all

around. Please don't forget to use page numbers. Late papers will lower your grade by a third of a letter per day late.

Grading Criteria:

Assignment	When	Percentage
Attendance	All the time	10%
Participation	All the time	10%
Midterm Exam	October 26	15%
Short Reaction Papers	Five throughout the semester (2% each)	10%
Final Paper	September 26 (Topic) October 5 (Road Map) October 17 (Literature Review: 5%) November 14 (First Draft: 10%) December 12 (Final Draft: 25%)	40%
Final Exam	December 19	15%

Academic Dishonesty:

The EMU Code of Student Conduct forbids plagiarism. Students should be familiar with the Code: <http://www.emich.edu/policies/policy.php?id=124>. Any assignment that is plagiarized will receive a score of zero, and may be referred to the EMU Office of Student Conduct. Similarly, cheating on exams is forbidden and will also result in a zero score on the exam. For more detailed information on what plagiarism is and how to avoid it, see: <http://www.emich.edu/library/help/integratingsources.php>

Claims of ignorance and academic or personal pressure are unacceptable as excuses for academic dishonesty. Students must learn what constitutes one's own work and how the work of others must be acknowledged.

Required Text:

Gillian Brock, ***Global Justice, A Cosmopolitan Account***; Oxford University Press, 2010
ISBN: 978-0-19-923094-5

Week 1 (Sep. 7): Introduction

Week 2 (Sep. 12 & 14): Theoretical Framework

- Global Justice, Ch. 1
- John Rawls, Justice as Fairness
<http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/rarneson/Courses/RawlsJustice.pdf>

Week 3 (Sep. 19 & 21): Global Distributive Justice 1

- Global Justice, Ch. 2

Week 4 (Sep. 26 & 28): Global Distributive Justice 2

- Charles Beitz, “Rawls’s Law of Peoples”
<http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/rarneson/phil267fa12/Required%20readings/Week%202/CharlesBeitz.pdf>
- Thomas Pogge, “An Egalitarian law of Peoples”
<http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/Pogge-An-Egalitarian-Law-of-Peoples.pdf>

Week 5 (Oct. 3 & 5): Cosmopolitanism

- Global Justice, Ch. 3
- Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”
<http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/rarneson/Singeressayspring1972.pdf>

Week 6 & 7 (Oct. 10 & 12 & 17): Global Governance and Global Poverty

- Global Justice, Ch. 4 (Oct. 10)
- Global Justice, Chs. 5, 9 (Oct. 12 & 17)
- Garrett Hardin, “Lifeboat Ethics: The case Against Helping the Poor”
<http://rintintin.colorado.edu/~vancecd/phil1100/Hardin.pdf>

Thursday, Oct. 19:

- **Movie (Professor attends ASMEA Conference)**

Week 8

Tuesday, Oct. 24: **Midterm Review**

Thursday, Oct. 26: **Midterm Exam**

Week 9 (Oct. 31 & Nov. 2): Basic Liberties and Global Justice

- Global Justice, Ch. 6
- Michael Payne, "Henry Shue on Basic Rights"
<http://commons.pacificu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1317&context=eip>

Week 10 (Nov. 7 & Nov. 9): Humanitarian Intervention

- Global Justice, Ch. 7
- <http://www.iep.utm.edu/justwar/>
- Michael Walzer, "The Triumph of Just War Theory"
<https://www.sss.ias.edu/files/pdfs/Walzer/TriumphJustWarTheory.pdf>

Week 11 (Nov. 14 & Nov. 16): Immigration

- Global Justice, Ch. 8
- Joseph Carens, "Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders"
<http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/rarneson/phil267fa12/aliens%20and%20citizens.pdf>

Week 12

Tuesday, Nov. 21

- **Movie (Professor attends NMUN Conference)**

Thursday, Nov. 23:

- **Thanksgiving Recess**

Week 13 (Nov. 28 & 30): Global Justice and Nationalism

- Global Justice, Chs. 10, 11
- Kok-Chor Tan, "Liberal Nationalism and Cosmopolitan Justice"
<http://cnqzu.com/library/Philosophy/Nationalism%20and%20Justice.pdf>

Week 14 (Dec. 5 & 7): Global Justice and Democratic Equality

- Global Justice, Chs. 12, 13

Week 15

Tuesday, Dec. 12:

Final Review; Research Paper

Tuesday, Dec. 19:

Final Exam, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.