

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY- LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM  
Fall Semester, 2016  
VALUES ISSUE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
LSHV-380-01C

Class Meetings: Wednesdays, September 7th through December 7th, 2016  
Classroom: ICC 217A

Instructor: William A. Douglas

Dr. Douglas has over fifty years of combined practical experience and academic teaching/writing in the areas of democratic development and international labor affairs. He has been teaching courses on ethics and foreign policy in the Liberal Studies Program at Georgetown since 1979, winning the LSP Excellence In Teaching award in 2002. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from SAIS of Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University. He has twice been a Fulbright Professor in Korea, in 1963 and 1980. From 2001 to 2005 and again in 2011-2012 he was the Interim Director of the International Development Program at SAIS of the Johns Hopkins University. From 2009 –2011 he was a Visiting Professor of Politics at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, in Nanjing, China.

Course Purpose:

Since the moral issues involved in the Cold War receded, the world has faced new ethical problems involving environmental action, trade policy, economic sanctions, dealing with terrorism, use of drones, cyberwarfare, mass refugee flows, and decisions on when and where to intervene abroad to aid those suffering from atrocities and ethnic conflicts.

Actually, in both periods most of the moral choices have just been variations on themes as old as civilization. This course will stress the processes of "moral reasoning" to decide where a nation's obligations lie when moral principles conflict.

This is a course in "**applied ethics**". We will take the moral principles generally used by writers on international ethics and apply them to currently relevant political, economic, military, and environmental topics. We will briefly contrast various approaches to the role of morality in international affairs: realism vs. idealism, absolutism vs. consequentialism, and natural law vs. positive law. However, this is not a course in the **philosophy** of international ethics. We will not be concerned with how the main writers in the field have derived the approaches they take, that is, we will not be looking into the epistemology of international ethics. Thus we will be more concerned with the writings of Michael Walzer, Stanley Hoffman, and Reinhold Niebuhr than with those of Aristotle, Kant, and John Rawls.

Teaching Methods:

The course will meet for thirteen weekly three-hour sessions, with each session divided into two classes of 90 minutes each. Most classes will begin with a short introductory lecture by the instructor, and then proceed to group discussion of questions on the topic and the readings. Students will receive the questions in advance.

Assignments and Grading:

Course readings, totaling about 90 pages per week, will provide a cross-section of writings on ethics and international affairs, including both some influential articles from the past and many contemporary items.

Students will write four concise "debate outlines" on topics of their choice that involve moral problems in foreign policy. Each outline must provide a balanced set of arguments both for

and against the chosen debate proposition, **and citations of points from the course readings to support those arguments.**

Grading will be based primarily on the quality of the four debate outlines, and secondarily on the student's contribution to the seminar-style discussions during the classes.

Required texts:

**BOOKS:**

Joel H. Rosenthal, ed., Ethics and International Affairs: A Reader, Georgetown University Press, 3rd edition, 2009.

Mark R. Amstutz, International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics, Rowman & Littlefield, Publishers, 4th edition, 2013

**CASE STUDIES:**

John W. Soule, A Case Study of Terrorism: Northern Ireland, 1970-1990, Carnegie Council Case Study Series on Ethics and International Affairs, Case #5, 1990.

Gregory Treverton, Covert Intervention in Chile, 1970-73, Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs Case No. 503, 1990, distributed by the Institute For the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

**HONOR CODE**

MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:

*In pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor system: To be honest in any academic endeavor: and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.*

**DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center ([arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu)) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Class Topics:

(There will be two classes in each of the 13 weekly 3-hour course sessions).

Sept. 7th - Can States be Moral?

Are There any Universal Political Principles?

Sept. 14th- Reconciling Conflicting Values in International Affairs.

Does Classic Just-War Theory Apply Today?

Sept. 21st - Military Intervention for National Security Purposes

Pre-emptive Attack and Preventive War - When Justified?

Sept. 28th - Case Study on Preventive War

The Ethics of Targeted Assassinations

FIRST DEBATE OUTLINE DUE

Oct. 5th - Humanitarian Intervention

Covert Political Action

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> - Terrorism

Torture

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> - Case Study on Terrorism and Torture

The Morality of Cyberwarfare

SECOND DEBATE OUTLINE DUE

Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> - What Are the Obligations of the Rich Nations to the Poor Nations?

Are Economic Sanctions a Moral Means of Pressure?

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> - Case Studies on Economic Sanctions

A Nation's Obligations Regarding Protection of the Global Environment

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> - Is the Present Pattern of International Trade Fair to Workers?

Transitional Justice

THIRD DEBATE OUTLINE DUE

Nov. 16th - Case Studies on Transitional Justice

Resignation In Protest

Nov. 23rd - **No class** – (Thanksgiving Eve)

Nov. 30th - The Ethics of Post-Cold-War Nuclear Deterrence

Nuclear Proliferation and Counter-Proliferation: When Justified?

Dec. 7th - International Migration and Refugee Flows

Course Summary

FOURTH DEBATE OUTLINE DUE