VALUES ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Instructor: William A. Douglas

Dr. Douglas has over half a century of combined practical experience and academic teaching/writing in the areas of democratic development and international labor affairs. He has been teaching on ethics and foreign policy in the Liberal Studies Program since 1979. He holds an M.A. in International Relations from SAIS of Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in Politics from Princeton University. In 1960-1970 he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Studies at New York University. He was a Fulbright Lecturer in Korea twice, at Yonsei University in 1963 and at Sung Kyun Kwan University in 1980. From 2001 to 2005, and again in 2011-2012, he was the Interim Director of the International Development Program at SAIS. From 2009 to 2011 he was the Fei Yi-ming Visiting Professor of Political Science at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center, in Nanjing, China.

Class Meetings: The first class will be on Wednesday, January 9th, and then on most (but not all) Mondays, through May 6th. Classes meet from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

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, cyberwarfare, refugees, 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:

Classes after the first week will each cover all or part of two topics:

- *The* discussion of questions on a topic and the readings. Students will receive the questions in advance.

- *Part of another topic:* The other topic will be covered over two weeks, with the introductory lecture the first week, and the group discussion the following week.
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 plus, when awarding letter grades, using as a “tie-breaker” the student's contribution to the seminar-style discussions during the classes.

Required texts:

Class Topics:

Jan. 9th - Course Introduction
   Can States be Moral? (Lecture and Discussion)

Jan. 14th - Reconciling Conflicting Values in International Affairs. (Lecture and discussion)
   Does Classic Just-War Theory Apply Today? (Lecture)

Jan. 21st - NO CLASS

Jan. 28th - Does Classic Just-War Theory Apply Today? (Discussion)
   Pre-emptive Attack and Preventive War: When Justified? (Lecture and discussion)

Feb. 4th - Transitional Justice (Lecture and Discussion)
   Humanitarian Intervention (Lecture)
      (FIRST DEBATE OUTLINE DUE)

Feb. 11th- Humanitarian Intervention (Discussion)
   International Migration (Lecture and Discussion)

Feb. 18th – NO CLASS

Feb. 25th - Are Economic Sanctions a Moral Means of Pressure? (Lecture and Discussion)
   Resignation in Protest (Lecture)

Mar. 4th – NO CLASS

Mar.11th - Resignation In Protest (Discussion)
   A Nation's Obligations Regarding Protection of the Global Environment
      (Lecture and discussion)
      (SECOND DEBATE OUTLINE DUE)

Mar. 18th - The Ethics of Post-Cold-War Nuclear Deterrence Strategy
   (Lecture and discussion)
   Nuclear Proliferation and Counter-Proliferation (Lecture)

Mar. 25th - Nuclear Proliferation and Counter-Proliferation (Discussion)
   What Are the Obligations of the Rich Nations to the Poor Nations?
      (Lecture and discussion)

April 1st - Is Terrorism Ever Morally Justified? (Lecture and discussion))
   Is Torture Ever Morally Justified? (Lecture)
      (THIRD DEBATE OUTLINE DUE)
April 8th - **Is Torture Ever Morally Justified?** (Discussion)  
The Ethics of Targeted Killings (Lecture and discussion)

April 15th - **When Are Cyberattacks Morally Justified?** (Lecture and Discussion)  
Is the Present Pattern of International Trade Fair To Workers?  
(Lecture)

April 22nd – NO CLASS

April 29th - **Is the Present Pattern of International Trade Fair To Workers?**  
(Discussion)  
**Is Covert Political Action Ever Justified?** (Lecture and Discussion)

May 6th - **The Morality of Espionage** (Lecture and Discussion)  
**Are There Any Universal Moral Values?** (Lecture)

May 11th (Saturday) – **Are There Any Universal Moral Values?** (Discussion)  
**Course Summary** (Lecture and Discussion)  
(FOURTH DEBATE OUTLINE DUE)
Readings to be done in preparation for discussion in the classes on the following topics (approximately 117 pp. per topic):

**Can States Be Moral?**

In our Amstutz text: pp. 9-21, 45-62.

David Hendrickson, “In Defense of Realism: A Commentary on Just and Unjust Wars”, (in our Rosenthal Reader text (3rd edition, pp. 3-20 only.).


**Reconciling Conflicting Values In International Affairs**

In the Amstutz text: pp.67-69, 82-88, 267-271.


Does Classic Just-War Theory Apply Today?

In the Amstutz text: pp. 135-146.


Daniel Brumstetter and Megan Braun, “From Jus ad Bellum to Jus ad Vim, Ethics and International Affairs, Spring, 2015.


Pre-emptive Attack and Preventive War: When Justified?

In the Amstutz text, pp. 146-155.


Neta Crawford, “The Slippery Slope to Preventive War”, in Joel Rosenberg and Christian Barry, editors, course text, Ethics and International Affairs – A Reader, 3rd edition, 2009. (Course text)


Transitional Justice

In the Amstutz text: Chapt. 6, “The Ethics Of Political Reconciliation”, pp. 113-119, 122-124, and also pp. 255-260.


“Prosecuting Rwanda’s Genocide Offenders, in the Amstutz text, pp. 119-122.

David Crocker, "Reckoning With Past Wrongs", in the Rosenthal text.

**Humanitarian Intervention**


In the Amstutz text: pp. 103-112, and Chapt. Nine (pp. 177-199)

Alex J.Bellamy, “The Responsibility To Protect Turns Ten”, E&IA, Summer, 2015

**International Migration:**


**Are Economic Sanctions a Moral Means of Pressure?**

In the Amstutz text, pp. 212-223.


**Resignation In Protest**


A Nation's Obligations Regarding Protection of the Global Environment


In the Amstutz text: pp. 248-255.


Robyn Eckersley, “Ecological Intervention: Prospects and Limits”, in our Rosenthal Reader text (3rd edition).(Course text)


National Geographic. “How To Fix It”, November 2015


The Ethics of Post-Cold-War Nuclear Deterrence

Amstutz text, pp. 70-74, 80-82.


Barack Obama, Remarks on Nuclear Disarmament, Prague, April 5, 2009.


Nuclear Proliferation and Counter-Proliferation


Steven Lee, "Nuclear Proliferation and Nuclear Entitlement", in E&IA, Vol. 9, 1995, pp. 105-114 only.


What Are the Obligations of the Rich Nations to the Poor Nations?


Thomas Pogge, “World Poverty and Human Rights”, in the Rosenthal Reader text (3rd edition. (Course text)


The Center For Global Development, “The Commitment To Development Index”, http://www.cgdev.org/section/initiatives/active/cdi/inside

Sridhar Venkatapuram, “Global Justice and the Social Determinants of Health”, Ethics and International Affairs, Summer, 2010


Is Terrorism Ever Morally Justified?

In the Amstutz text: pp. 157-168


Aleksandar Pavkovic, "Towards Liberation: Terrorism From a Liberation Theology Perspective", Cha. 6 in Coady and O'Keefe.


Is Torture Ever Morally Justified?

In the Amstutz text: pp. 164-168.

Amnesty International, Torture and Ill-Treatment, December 1, 2001


The Ethics of Targeted Assassination
In the Amstutz text, pp. 168-175.


When Are Cyberattacks Morally Justified?

"Developing World-Class Cyber Offensive Capabilities", pp. 49-54]

Thomas Rid, “Think Again: Cyberwar”, Foreign Policy, March/April, 2012.


Is the Present Pattern of World Trade Fair to Workers?


Course Summary:

