

IR 307 Contemporary International Politics: Ethics and International Security

Spring 2010

THH 116

School of International Relations

University of Southern California

Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30AM-1:50PM

Instructor: Dr. Eric Blanchard SOS 268
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-3PM, Thursday 11:15AM-12, and by appointment

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I. Course Description, Objectives and Requirements:

“Ethics and International Security” is a course is designed to help students, as future leaders, policy-makers and world citizens, explore the relationship between international security and ethics. The main questions we will address include whether ethical questions are relevant to international relations, and in light of the constraints of the international system, are ethically desirable results possible? The goal of IR 307 is to give students the intellectual tools to think through these big issues and help them to develop the ability to ask ethical questions about world politics. We will use case studies to explore the question of how we (should) judge or evaluate action and behavior in the international realm. To develop additional expertise in a particular policy area, students will draft a brief report utilizing IR 307 materials to illuminate an issue of pressing international concern.

By the end of this course, students will:

- *Have a basic understanding of the relevant traditions of international ethical thought and the role of international justice and responsibility, and be able to relate this knowledge to the study of international relations.
- *Develop practical knowledge of several pressing challenges to international security, such as nuclear proliferation, human rights, humanitarian intervention, economic sanctions, preemptive war, the environment and poverty, and assess strategies for managing these challenges.
- *Be able to evaluate policy recommendations for the United States in ethical terms.

Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned readings and ready to participate in a robust discussion of the materials. Since exams are designed to test your knowledge of both lecture materials and texts, it will be next to impossible to succeed in IR 307 without regular class attendance. Along with attendance, engaged, meaningful

class participation and the demonstration of focused, critical thinking skills are the keys to success in this class.

Grading:

15% Attendance and quality participation
20% Quizzes (4 out of 5, lowest grade dropped)
25% Midterm
15% Short paper (2000-2500 words, approx. 8-10 pages) on approved topic
25% Final

Readings (texts on order at the USC Bookstore and on Leavy reserve):

Mark R. Amstutz, *International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics*. 3rd Ed. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008.

Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009.

All other readings are available on USC's Blackboard system (<https://blackboard.usc.edu/>).

Classroom policies:

In the classroom:

Please be sure to help the instructor maintain a collegial atmosphere necessary for learning by keeping comments civil and respectful. The lectures and discussions in this class will demand the full use of your undivided cognitive abilities; therefore, the use of laptops is discouraged and even frowned upon. Before you enter the classroom, please discontinue the use of and stow all portable electronic communication devices and be sure your device is in an off-position or silent (*not vibrating*) mode. Messaging, tweeting, texting, chatting, celebrity stalking, social networking, shopping, portfolio managing or using electronic devices in *any manner* that distracts your fellow classmates from classroom activities will not be tolerated, and WILL result in a lowered participation grade for each occurrence (for example, students seen texting will not receive credit for any class in which they choose to disrupt the class in this manner). Audio or video recording of class sessions is not allowed without explicit permission from the instructor. I will only consider excusing absences upon the presentation of appropriate medical or other documentation. With proper notification, I will consider giving 1% credit for successful participation in and completion of a service-learning program such as TIRP.

Notes on written work:

*All written work should be neat, free of spelling and grammatical errors, double-spaced, typed in 12 point font, page numbered, and should utilize appropriate citation practices.

*It is strongly suggested that assignments accord with the citation practices and reference standardization found at www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html, or a similar style guide. Author-date style is preferred. Students are advised to consult a helpful guide to research papers, such as *The Craft of Research* by Wayne C. Booth, et al. (University Of Chicago Press), or Stephen Van Evera's *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press).

*Work must be submitted by the relevant deadline, **both** as a *hard copy* to my box in **VKC 330**, and as a clearly labeled (your name, name of assignment) *electronic attachment* to uscIR307@gmail.com. Late work will be penalized one half grade for each day late (A to A-, etc.). Yes, including weekends.

Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. **Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible.** DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. <http://www.usc.edu/disability>

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

II. Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Jan 12

No readings

Jan 14

Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," in *History of the Peloponnesian War*, Rex Warner trans. (New York: Penguin, 1954), pp.400-408.

Amstutz Ch. 1 and Ch.2, "Morality and Foreign Policy" and "Strategies of Ethical Decision Making" pp.27-30, 34-42.

Week 2: Traditions and the ethics of war

Jan 19

Amstutz Ch.3, "The Role of Ethical Traditions."

Jan 21

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations* (New York: Basic Books, 1977) ch. 1-2, pp.3-33.

Week 3: Weapons of mass destruction

Jan 26

Amstutz ch.2 , "Strategies of Ethical Decision Making,"pp.30-34.

Richard Wasserstrom "War, Nuclear War, and Nuclear Deterrence: Some Conceptual and Moral Issues," *Ethics* 95: 3 (1985), pp. 424-444.

Roland Bleiker, "A Rogue Is a Rogue Is a Rogue: US Foreign Policy and the Korean Nuclear Crisis," *International Affairs* 79: 4 (2003), pp. 719-737.

Jan 28 *QUIZ 1

Nina Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use," *International Organization* 53:3 (1999), pp.433-468.

Week 4: Justice and responsibility

Feb 2

David Armstrong, "No End of a Lesson: Vietnam and the Nature of Moral Choice in Foreign Policy," in Cathal J. Nolan, ed. *Ethics and Statecraft: The Moral Dimension of International Affairs* 2nd Ed. (Westport, CT: Praegar, 2004), pp.75-93.

Feb 4

Andrew Linklater, "The Evolving Spheres of International Justice" *International Affairs* 75, 3 (1999), pp. 473-482.

Amstutz, ch. 6 "The Ethics of War" pp.109-120.

Week 5: Intervention

Feb 9

Amstutz, ch. 8 "The Ethics of Intervention."

Andrew Linklater, "The Harm Principle and Global Ethics," *Global Society* 20: 3 (2006), pp.329-343.

Feb 11

Martha Finnemore, "Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention," in Peter J. Katzenstein, ed. *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996), 153-185.

Week 6: Human rights

Feb 16

Amstutz, ch. 5 "The Ethics of International Human Rights."

Feb 18 *QUIZ 2

Romeo A. Dallaire, "The End of Innocence: Rwanda 1994" in Jonathan Moore, ed., *Hard Choices: Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998), pp.71-86.

Week 7: Human rights, continued

Feb 23

John Rawls, "Law of Peoples" in Stephen Shute and Susan Hurley, eds., *On Human Rights: The Oxford Amnesty Lectures 1993* (New York: Basic Books, 1993), pp.41-82.

Feb 25

MIDTERM (Bring Bluebook, but do not write name on it)

Week 8: Terrorism, preventative war, torture

Mar 2

Amstutz, ch 7. 'Ethics of Military Operations other than War.'

Richard B. Miller, "Justifications of the Iraq War Examined" *Ethics & International Affairs* 22: 1 (2008) pp.43-67.

Mar 4

Amstutz ch 6, "The Ethics of War" pp.120-9.

Whitley Kaufman, "What's Wrong with Preventive War? The Moral and Legal Basis for the Preventive Use of Force," *Ethics & International Affairs* Volume 19: 3 (2005) pp.23-38.

Neta C. Crawford "The Slippery Slope to Preventive War," *Ethics & International Affairs* 17: 1 (2003), pp. 30-36.

Week 9: Torture and Slavery

Mar 9

Jessica Wolfendale, "The Myth of 'Torture Lite,'" *Ethics & International Affairs* 23:1 (2009), pp.47-61.

Whitley Kaufman, "Torture and the 'Distributive Justice' Theory of Self-Defense: An Assessment," *Ethics & International Affairs* 22:1 (2008), pp.93-115.

Mar 11

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn, *Half the Sky*, pp. xi-60.

****SPRING BREAK****

Week 10: Gender Justice

STUDENTS SHOULD CONSULT WITH PROF. BLANCHARD ON PAPER TOPICS

Mar 23

Kristof and Wu Dunn *Half the Sky*, pp. 61-148.

Mar 25 *QUIZ 3

Kristof and Wu Dunn *Half the Sky*, pp.149-255.

Alison M. Jaggar, "'Saving Amina': Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue," *Ethics & International Affairs* 19:3 (2005), pp. 55-75.

Week 11: Institutions and the environment

Mar 30

Amstutz, ch. 11 "The Ethics of Global Society."

Spyros Economides, "The International Criminal Court," in Karen E. Smith and Margot Light eds., *Ethics and Foreign Policy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp.112-128.

Apr 1

Paul Wapner and John Willoughby, "The Irony of Environmentalism: The Ecological Futility but Political Necessity of Lifestyle Change" *Ethics & International Affairs* 19: 3, (2005), pp.77-89.

Week 12: Economics, poverty, sanctions

Apr 6

Nancy Kokaz, "Poverty and Global Justice," *Ethics & International Affairs* 21: 3 (2007), pp.317-336.
(continued on next page)

Mathias Risse, "Do We Owe the Global Poor Assistance or Rectification?" *Ethics & International Affairs* 19: 1 (2005), pp. 9-18.

Apr 8 ***PAPER PROPOSALS DUE**

Amstutz, ch. 9 "The Ethics of International Sanctions," pp.175-193.

Week 13: International justice, aid and immigration

Apr 13*QUIZ 4

Amstutz ch.10 "Pursuing International Justice."

Apr 15

Mathias Risse, "On the Morality of Immigration," *Ethics & International Affairs* 22:1, (2008) pp.25-33.

Ryan Pevnick, Philip Cafaro, Mathias Risse, "An Exchange: The Morality of Immigration," *Ethics & International Affairs* 22: 3 (2008), pp. 241-259.

Week 14: Post-conflict, reconciliation, and transition

Apr 20

Amstutz, ch 4. "The Ethics of Political Reconciliation."

Apr 22

Robert E. Williams, Jr. and Dan Caldwell, "Jus Post Bellum: Just War Theory and the Principles of Just Peace," *International Studies Perspectives* 7 (2006): 309-320.

Dominik Zaum, "The Norms and Politics of Exit: Ending Postconflict Transitional Administrations" *Ethics & International Affairs* 23: 2 (2009), pp. 189-208.

Week 15: International Ethics after 9/11

Apr 27 *QUIZ 5

Alex J. Bellamy, "Responsibility to Protect or Trojan Horse? The Crisis in Darfur and Humanitarian Intervention after Iraq" *Ethics & International Affairs* 19:2 2005, pp.31-53.

Margot Light, "Exporting Democracy" in Karen E. Smith and Margot Light eds., *Ethics and Foreign Policy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp 75-92.

Apr 29 *Review*

Amstutz, "Conclusion," pp.241-245.

FINAL PAPER

Due May 7 by 5PM, *both* hardcopy in my mailbox in VKC 330, and electronically to uscIR307@gmail.com.

FINAL EXAM

Wednesday, May 12, 2-4 p.m.