Provisional Draft:

This outline gives a sense of how the course will be structured, but **details may change. This is not the final, *official* outline**.

PHIL 235 A01
Spring 2024 CRN
Ethics of War, Violence and Terrorism

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1 pm-2 pm

Course Description

This course engages with contemporary approaches to and selected topics in the ethics of war and other forms of political violence. The material covered in this course includes case studies and descriptions of experiences of war, group-based violence and other human rights abuses. For this reason you should be prepared to engage with difficult and disturbing materials.

This course is reading-intensive and it requires a good deal of writing as well. It is very important that you keep up with the readings as we go along. The ideal is to do the readings in time to be able to ask questions during lectures.

Texts

- Laura Sjoberg *Gender, Justice and the Wars in Iraq: A Feminist Reformulation of Just War Theory* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006) **(SJOBERG)**
- Adil Ahmad Haque, *Law and Morality at War* (Oxford, 2017). **(HAQUE)**
- Brightspace Coursepack **(BCP)**

Evaluation

Quizzes 2.5%
5 @ 0.5%
pass/fail
dates available in Brightspace

1-page reflection relating readings to current events 7.5%
5 @ 1.5%
due Thursdays at 11:59 pm
must use readings from the week in which completed

Take-Home Assignments (3 in total) 60%
Assignment #1 @ 25% **(**available Feb 16, due Feb 20)
Assignment #2 @ 25% **(**available , due)

7-9 page paper 30%
Assignment sheet available Jan 12, due April 11

Exceptions to deadlines are governed by UVic policies regarding academic concessions. If you are unable to meet a deadline because of conflicting responsibilities, or unexpected or unavoidable circumstances **you must contact me as soon as you are aware of the circumstances or conflict**.

Late assignments and papers will be penalized in the amount of 5% per 24 hours to a maximum of 30%. Exceptions to this penalty will only be considered in cases where an alternate deadline was arranged ahead of time or lateness was caused by an unexpected or unavoidable circumstance, as described in UVic's policies regarding academic concessions.

Grade Scale

100-90 = A+, 85-89 = A, 80-84 = A-, 77-79 = B, 73-76 = B, 70-72 = B-, 65-69 = C+, 60-64 = C, 50-59 = D, 0-49 = F

For more details see the regulations on grading in the Undergraduate Calendar

N Grades

Students who have completed both tests and the 7-9 page paper will be considered to have completed the course. Failure to complete at both tests or to submit the 7-9 page paper will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.
percentage on other elements of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0.

Brightspace

A Brightspace page has been set up for this course. You may access it by signing in with your netlink id. This page will be used to post announcements, to:

- give you online access to coursepack readings, tests, the essay assignment sheet, powerpoints, and supplementary resources
- administer and collect assignments

Please note that all quizzes, answer keys, and assignment sheets, and all lecture notes and teaching materials posted to Brightspace are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. **Do not circulate course materials or post them to note-sharing sites without my permission.** Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity. Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Expectations Regarding Conduct

All members of the university community have the right to experience, and the responsibility to help create, a respectful and supportive learning environment. These rights and the responsibilities are present both in interactions in person and online. Racism, sexualized violence, and any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment are not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

By logging into UVic's learning systems and interacting with online resources you are engaging in a university activity. This means that your conduct is subject to University policies in those settings.

Professionalism is expected from all students enrolled in courses in the Faculty of Humanities. As part of professionalism, students, faculty and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the Tri-Faculty's *Standards for Professional Behaviour*.

Academic Integrity

Any and all sources used in preparing work that is submitted for evaluation must be acknowledged. This includes websites and other students' work. **Plagiarism and other**

forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Such conduct is contrary to the University's academic regulations and shows a profound lack of respect for me, for fellow students and for the university as an institution of higher learning.

You are expected to read the University's *Policy on Academic Integrity*. You can find it in the Undergraduate Calendar. It is your responsibility to know and follow the University's regulations regarding academic integrity. Penalties for academic integrity violations are harsh and are applied as written.

For additional information about the University's expectations with respect to academic integrity and resources to help you meet those expectations, visit the University's Academic Integrity page.

Academic Supports

The University has a number of academic support services that may help you in this course, including the Centre for Academic Communication the Library's Research Anywhere site and the Library's "Ask Us" service). Information about academic supports can be found through the University's Learn Anywhere site.

Academic Accommodations

The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you believe you will require academic accommodations to address barriers to your education in this course and you are not already registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning, please do so using the CAL registration process. The Centre for Accessible Learning is the office designated to make arrangements for accommodations. You can find information about academic accommodations through the Centre for Accessible Learning's website .

Schedule of Readings

The following is the anticipated schedule of readings and assignments. Dates and readings may be modified over the course of the year. Such changes will be announced ahead of time.

Week 1: Jan 9-12

C.A.J Coady, "The Idea of Violence" in *Morality and Political Violence*. Cambridge University Press: 2008, pp. 21-42. **(BCP)**

John Darby, "Political Violence: An Overview" in *The ashgate research companion to political violence*, M. Breen-Smyth, ed. Taylor & Francis: 2012, pp.17-32. **(BCP)**

Laurie Nathan, ""The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse": The Structural Causes of Crisis and Violence in Africa", *Peace & Change* 25: 2 (April 2000), 188-207. **(BCP)**

Week 2: Jan 16-19

Brian Orend, *War and Political Theory*. Polity Press: 2019, pp. 80-137 **(BCP)**

Christine Sylvester, "War as Physical Experience" in *War as Experience*. Routledge: 2013, pp. 65-86. **(BCP)**

Week 3: Jan 23-26

Kam-por Yu, “Confucian Views on War as Seen in the Gongyang Commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals”, *Dao: a Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, 9:1 (2010), 97–111. **(BCP)**

Yi-Ming Yu, “Military ethics of Xunzi: Confucianism confronts war”, *Comparative Strategy*, 35:4 (2016), 260-273**. (BCP)**

Week 4: Jan 30-Feb 2
Sjoberg pp. 5-42

Week 5: Feb 6-9
Sjoberg pp 45-107

Week 6: Feb 13-16
Sjoberg pp 133-181, 205-213

Take-Home Assignment #1 available Feb 16 at 1 pm, due Feb 20 at 11:59 pm

READING BREAK FEB 20-23

Week 7: Feb 27-Mar 1
Jeff McMahan, “The Morality of War and the Law of War" in *Just and Unjust Warriors: The Moral and Legal Status of Soldiers*, D. Rodin and H. Shue, eds. Oxford University Press: 2008, pp 19-43. **(BCP)**

Week 8: Mar 5-8
Haque pp. 1-55

Week 9: Mar 12-15
Haque pp. 56-105, 137-174

Week 10: Mar 19-22
Haque pp 175-270

Take-Home Assignment #2 available Mar 22 at 1 pm, due Mar 25 at 11:59 pm

Week 11: Mar 26-27
Eric Joseph Ritter, “Drone Warfare and the Principle of Discrimination” in *Cambridge Handbook of Just War*, L. May, ed. Cambridge University Press: 2018, pp. **(BCP)**

Michael Robillard, "The 'Killer Robots' Are Us", The New York Times January 29, 2018, Opinion Section, *The Stone* **(BCP)**

Christiane Wilke, “Seeing and Unmaking Civilians in Afghanistan: Visual Technologies and Contested Professional Visions”, *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 42:6 (2017), 1031-1060. **(BCP)**

Week 12: April 2-5, 8
Ruth Jamieson and Kieran McEvoy, “State Crime by Proxy and Judicial Othering”, *International Organization* 54:2 (Spring 2000), pp 217-252. **(BCP)**

Frederick Schneider and Tilman Brück, "The Economics of Counterterrorism: A Survey" *Journal of Economic Surveys* 29:1 (2015), 131-157. **(BCP)**

Lars Waldorf, “Getting the Gunpowder Out of Their Heads: The Limits of Rights-Based DDR”, *Human Rights Quarterly* 35:3 (2013), 701-719. **(BCP)**

7-9 page page essay due April 11 before midnight