

PHIL 235 A01 Fall 2024
CRN 12624 (1.5 units)

Ethics of War, Violence and Terrorism Meets M, Th 8:30a.m-9:50 a.m. COR B143

Dr. Cindy Holder (she/her)
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Office Hours: CLE B322
Mondays & Thursdays 11 am-12 pm

I acknowledge with respect the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples (including the Tsartlip, Pauquachin, Tsawout, Tseycum and Malahat nations) in whose territories and waters the university operates and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

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

Use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Grammarly or any other tool that uses AI for content generation and editing) is prohibited in this course.

Quizzes 2.5%

- 5 @ 0.5%; graded pass/fail
- dates posted in Brightspace

1-page reflection relating readings to current events 7.5%

- 5 @ 1.5%; graded out of 10
- due Thursdays at 11:59 pm
- must use report no older than 6 months, readings from the week in which completed

Take-Home Tests (3 in total) 60%

- Test #1 @ 20% (available Oct 3 at 4 pm, due Oct 7 at midnight)
- Test #2 @ 25% (available Oct 31 at 4 pm, due Mon Nov 4 at midnight)
- Test #3 @ 15% (available Nov 28 at 4 pm, due Dec 2 at midnight)
- open book
- combination of short answer and essay questions

6-8 page (1500-2000 words) essay
Assignment sheet available Sep 12, due Dec 12

30%

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 the three 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. **This course does not permit the use of generative AI to generate answers or prepare assignments for this course.** Plagiarizing and using generative AI when you have been advised it is prohibited are forms of cheating and show a profound lack of respect for me, for fellow students and for the university as an educational institution.

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.

Introductory Class: Sep 5

Overview of course outline, course expectations
Introductory lecture: Ethics and Organized Violence

Supplementary reading:

Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, J.J. Graham, transl. Project Gutenberg: 2006 [1874]
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1946/1946-h/1946-h.htm#chap01> , Book One,
Chapters 1 and 7.

Week 1: Sep 9-12

C.A.J Coady, *Morality and Political Violence*. Cambridge University Press: 2007, pp. 3-8, 21-42. **(BCP)**

Supplementary reading:

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: Sep 16-19

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

Uwe Steinhoff, “What is War – and Can a Lone Individual Wage One?” in *The Ethics of War and the Force of Law: A Modern Just War Theory*. Routledge: 2021, pp. 12-30.

Supplementary reading:

Patrick Radden Keefe, *Say Nothing*. Anchor Books: 2019, pp 9-12, 18-29, 114-119

Week 3: Sep 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)**

Supplementary reading:

Xunzi, “A Debate on Military Affairs” in *Xunzi: The Complete Text*, Eric L. Hutton, transl. Princeton University Press: 2014, pp.145-162. **(BCP)**

Take-Home Test #1 available Oct 3 at 4 pm, due Oct 7 at midnight

Week 4: Oct 3

Seth Lazar, “War” in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war/> , published 3 May 2016 **(BCP)**

Supplementary reading:

Sharanjeet Parmar and Yann Lebrat, “Minors and miners: accountability beyond child soldiering in the Democratic Republic of Congo” in *Research Handbook on Child Soldiers*, M. Drumbl and J. Barrett eds., Edward Elgar Publishing: Cheltenham, 2019, pp. 298-324. **(BCP)**

Week 5: Oct 7-10

Laura Sjoberg *Gender, Justice and the Wars in Iraq: A Feminist Reformulation of Just War Theory* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006) **(Sjoberg)** pp. 5-15, 45-62 *Supplementary*

reading:

Marit Ursin, "Militarized everyday lives, logics and responses among children and youth in a violent community in urban Brazil", *Childhood* 27:3 (2020), 325- 339. **(BCP)**

Week 6: Oct 17

Sjoberg pp 63-107

Supplementary reading:

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

Week 7: Oct 21-24

Sjoberg pp 133-163

Take-Home Test #2 available Oct 31 at 4 pm, due Nov 4 at midnight

Week 8: Oct 28-31

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)**

Supplementary reading:

International Committee of the Red Cross, *The Geneva Conventions and Their Commentaries*, <https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/treaties-customary-law/genevaconventions> **(BCP)**

Week 9: Nov 4-7

Adil Ahmad Haque, *Law and Morality at War* (Oxford, 2017). **(Haque)** pp. 1-55

Week 10: Nov 14

Haque pp. 56-83

Supplementary reading:

Michael Byers, *War Law*. Grove Press: 2005, pp. 115-155 **(BCP)**

Week 11: Nov 18-21

Haque pp 106-109, 115-144, 153-174

Week 12: Nov 25-28

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

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)**

Take-Home Test #3 available Nov 28 at 4 pm, due Dec 2 at midnight

Supplementary reading:

Amnesty International, Afghanistan: Background to the Kunduz airstrike of 4 September 2009, October 30, 2009.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa11/015/2009/en/>

European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights, The Kunduz airstrike – German Armed Forces go unpunished, March 2021.

https://www.ecchr.eu/fileadmin/Q_As/QA_Kunduz_February2021.pdf

European Court of Human Rights, The investigation by the German authorities following a lethal airstrike in the context of NATO operations in Afghanistan did not breach the Convention, February 16, 2021. **(BCP)**

Week 13: Dec 2

Christiane Wilke, "High Altitude Legality: Visuality and Jurisdiction in the Adjudication of NATO Air Strikes", *Canadian Journal of Law and Society* 34:2 (2019) **(BCP)**

6-8 page (1500-2000 words) essay due Dec 12 before midnight