

PHIL 235 A01
Spring 2023
Ethics of War, Violence and Terrorism

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30pm-2pm

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 survivors' descriptions of their experiences. 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.

Evaluation

Take-Home Assignments (3 in total) 65%
Assignment #1 @ 15% (available Jan 26, due Feb 3)
Assignment #2 @ 25% (available Feb 16, due Mar 3)
Assignment #3 @ 25% (available Apr 7, due Apr 14)

5-7 page paper 35%
Assignment sheet available Jan 9, due April 22

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 of serious and unforeseeable extenuating circumstances such as illness, accident or family emergency.

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

N Grades

Students who have completed two tests and the 8-10 page paper will be considered to have completed the course. Failure to complete at least two of the 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.

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
- collect tests and the essay assignment

Please note that all tests, the essay assignment sheet 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](#) .

Texts

- Larry May (editor), *Cambridge Handbook of Just War* (Cambridge University Press: 2018) **(MAY)**
- Michael Byers, *War Law* (Grove Press: 2005). **(BYERS)**
- Brightspace Coursepack **(BCP)**

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.

A number of cases will be used to illustrate the concepts and arguments in each section. **These cases are part of the required reading load** and you will be expected to be able to discuss them in assignments and essays.

Jan 9

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

Jan 12-16

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)**

Jan 19-23

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. **(BCP)**

Jan 26

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

Assignment #1 Available Jan 26, Due Feb 3 before midnight

Jan 30-Feb 2

Michael Byers "United Nations Action" and "Self-Defence" **(BYERS)**

Yitzhak Benjabi, "State Defense" **(MAY)**

Feb 6-9

Laura Sjoberg, "Feminisms Fight Wars: *Jus in Bello*" in *Gender, Justice, and the Wars in Iraq: A Feminist Reformulation of Just War Theory*. Lexington Books: 2006, pp. 87-107. **(BCP)**

Feb 13-16

Suzanne Uniacke, "The Condition of Last Resort" **(MAY)**

Uwe Steinhoff, "Just Cause and the Continuous Application of Jus Ad Bellum" **(MAY)**

Assignment #2 Available Feb 16, Due Mar 3 before midnight

Feb 20-24 READING BREAK

Feb 27-Mar 2

Shannon French, "Distinction and Civilian Immunity" **(MAY)**

Eric Joseph Ritter, "Drone Warfare and the Principle of Discrimination" **(MAY)**

Mar 9-13

Steven Lee, "The Moral Problems of Asymmetric Conflict" **(MAY)**

Laura Sjoberg "Gender, Just War and Non-State Actors" in *Ethics, Authority and War*, Eric Heinze and Brent Steele, eds. Palgrave Macmillan: 2009, pp. 151-176. **(BCP)**

Mar 16-23

Michael Byers, "International Law During Armed Conflict" **(BYERS)**

Jeff McMahan, "The Morality of War and the Law of War" in *Just and Unjust Warriors: The Moral and Legal Status of Soldiers*, David Rodin and Henry Shue, eds. Oxford University Press: 2008. **(BCP)**

Adil Ahmad Haque, "Law and Morality" in *Law and Morality at War*. Oxford University Press: 2017, pp. 19-55. **(BCP)**

Mar 27-30

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)**

Rogier Bartels, Dealing With the Principle of Proportionality in Armed Conflict in Retrospect: The Application of the Principle in International Criminal Trials, *Israel Law Review* 46:2 (2013), 271-315. **(BCP)**

Apr 2-6

CASE STUDIES (TBD)

Assignment # 3 Available Apr 7, Due Apr 14 before midnight

5-7 page essay due April 22 before midnight