POLI 345 Ethics in International Relations

Instructor Spring 2022: Dr. Scott Watson

Course delivery: In the Spring 2022 term, this course will be delivered on campus and face-to-face.

Course description:
Some of the most pressing issues in international politics require difficult ethical assessment and decision: should states militarily intervene to prevent gross human rights violations? Are states justified in restricting immigration, even of refugees? Is there a moral duty to redistribute wealth globally? Who bears primary responsibility for the costs of preventing, mitigating, or adapting to climate change? Are there situations in which states may legitimately wage war, and is it ever acceptable to target non-combatants? All of these questions are of current importance and involve difficult moral decisions. The goal of this course is to introduce different traditions of moral thought and to explore their implications for contemporary international issues.

Prerequisites: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Understand major approaches to international ethics
- Introduce issues which present ethical dilemmas for practitioners and students of international politics

Topics may include:
Theories of international politics
Immigration, citizenship and community
“Just“ warfare
Environmental challenges

This summary provides an overall sense of the course. It is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.