

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Philosophy  
Terrorism: Phil 2083F, section 001  
Fall 2011

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Robb  
Office: Stevenson Hall, room 3124  
Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Class Hours: Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30 and  
Thursdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Talbot College, room 343  
e-mail contact: rrobb@uwo.ca

Course Objectives:

This course seeks to achieve two goals. The first, and most important, is to help students identify, and distinguish between, good and bad arguments. Students will be required to determine what it is that makes the set of reasons that support the conclusions of one argument more compelling than those presented in competing arguments.

The second goal of this course is to explore the ways in which the aforementioned philosophical skills have been applied by scholars to Terrorism and related issues. We begin with a prolonged study of the arguments offered in defense of several competing definitions of ‘terrorism’ then proceed to consider arguments addressing the justifiability of terrorism. The course ends with a comparatively brief survey of arguments addressing state-terrorism, just war theory, and the justifiability of civil disobedience.

Required Texts:

Igor Primoratz, *Terrorism: The Philosophical Issues* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).  
Custom Coursepack, available at the UWO Bookstore.

Course Requirements:

70% - two 4- 5 page essays, worth 35% each\*  
30% - Final Exam

\* Late papers will be assessed a 5% penalty on the first day, and will incur an additional 1% penalty for each subsequent day until the penalty reaches 50%. After that time, a grade of 0 will automatically be recorded. No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes, i.e., Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2011.

**AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus cannot be used as grounds of appeal.