

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2011

Philosophy 2810F: Global Justice and Human Rights
Previously Philosophy 248F

Summer Term 2011
MW 10:00-1:00
Room 289, University College

Instructor: Jeffrey Spring
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Office: TBA

Increased awareness concerning global inequality has motivated political thinkers to determine what specific obligations citizens of wealthy countries have toward the citizens of poorer countries and what norms and institutions should govern the distribution of the world's resources. Much of this work falls into one of two camps: that which assigns fundamental moral significance to national boundaries, and that which does not. The former focuses on special obligations we have to our compatriots while the latter involves a commitment to cosmopolitanism, the view that each of us is a citizen of the world with equal moral worth and, as individuals, each of us thus has responsibilities to distant others. What, if any, obligations do citizens of wealthy countries have toward the citizens of poorer countries? Do those obligations issue from universal human rights? What norms and institutions should govern the distribution of the world's resources? How can global institutions be reformed and made more democratic? What are the prospects of new and alternative institutions? Is global justice a property of institutions, of interpersonal relations, or both? What are subjects of moral worth owed according to the demands of justice and who and/or what qualifies for inclusion within the sphere of justice? This course will address these questions through consideration of topics that raise issues of global justice, for example globalization, nationalism, and global warming.

TEXTS:

Thom Brooks, ed. *The Global Justice Reader*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2008.
ISBN: 978-1-4051-6964-6 (paperback)
Plus a selection of readings posted on WebCT

REQUIREMENTS:

Participation	10%
Essays (two 5-7 page papers x 30% each)	60%
Final Exam	30%

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** which 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.

Philosophy 2810F Summer 2011 Syllabus
Instructor: Jeffrey Spring

<u>Class/Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings (<i>required in bold, others recommended</i>)</u>
1 July 4	Introduction to Global Justice	Introduction, Brooks p. xii-xxii
2 July 6	Human Rights	The Politics of Human Rights, Gready (WebCT) Elements of a Theory of Human Rights, Sen p. 315-338 only (WebCT)
3 July 11	Human Rights	The Nature of Rights, Wenar p. 124 Human Rights as a Common Concern, Beitz p. 145
4 July 13	<i>The Law of Peoples</i>	An Egalitarian Law of Peoples, Pogge p. 237 <i>The Law of Peoples</i> , Rawls p. 217
5 July 18	Nationalism & Patriotism	What is so Special about our Fellow Countrymen? Goodin p. 263
6 July 20	Nationalism & Patriotism	The Ethics of Nationality, Miller p. 284 Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism, Nussbaum p. 306
An electronic copy of the first essay is due via WebCT by <i>Friday July 22nd</i> at midnight.		
7 July 25	Cosmopolitanism	<i>Perpetual Peace</i>, Kant p. 319 Kant's Idea of Perpetual Peace, with the Benefit of Two Hundred Years' Hindsight, Habermas p. 332
8 July 27	Cosmopolitanism	Moral Universalism and Global Economic Justice, Pogge p. 358
9 August 1	<i>Civic Holiday (no class)</i>	
10 August 3	Global Poverty and Distributive Justice	The Problem of Global Justice, Nagel p. 416 Famine, Affluence, and Morality, Singer p. 387
An electronic copy of the second essay is due via WebCT by <i>Friday August 5th</i> at midnight.		
11 August 8	Women and Global Justice	Capabilities as Fundamental Entitlements, Nussbaum p. 598, Conceptualizing Women's Human Rights, Gould p. 650
12 August 10	Environmental Justice Nonhuman Animals And Global Justice	Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change, Caney p. 689 Global Justice for Humans or for All Living Beings and What Difference It Makes, Sterba (WebCT)
	<i>Review</i>	

The final exam will take place during the exam period (August 15-16)

This syllabus is subject to change given prior notice.