

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16

Philosophy 2810G – Human Rights and Global Justice

Winter Term 2016 M: 12:30-1:30, W: 12:30-2:30 Classroom: TC 205	Instructor: Dean Proessel Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:30 dproesse@uwo.ca
--	---

DESCRIPTION

In this course we will examine some key works of normative political philosophy on the topic of global justice and human rights. Questions to be considered include: Is global justice possible in a diverse and unequal world? Are there universal principles of justice that apply to all peoples of the world? Or, do we have special obligations to our fellow compatriots? Do people have a right to be free from poverty? Is the language of rights adequate for addressing the problem of global poverty? Who is responsible for alleviating such poverty and what constitutes a just distribution of benefits from rich to poor? Do people have a right to immigrate and what kind of right is this? Who owns natural resources and should there be a global redistribution of natural resources? Who is responsible for the harms of climate change? In addressing these and other questions, we will, in particular, work towards understanding the recent shift in political philosophy towards cosmopolitan conceptions of global justice and human rights, including criticisms of such conceptions. Our investigation will draw on works from key thinkers including Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Charles Beitz, Peter Singer, Thomas Pogge, Martha Nussbaum, Onora O'Neill, David Miller, Iris Marion Young and Seyla Benhabib

TEXTS

Course package from the University Bookstore

David Miller, *National Responsibility and Global Justice*

OBJECTIVES

After completion of the course students should have:

- an understanding of approaches to global justice and how they differ from each other.
- an understanding of the nature of human rights and how theories of human rights relate to theories of global justice

- an ability to critically defend a viewpoint regarding a theme within the topic of global justice and human rights.

REQUIREMENTS

In addition to keeping up with class readings and participating in class discussions, students will be expected to fulfill the following course requirements:

Paper 1	30%
Paper 2	35%
Final exam	35%

Submission Guidelines

All written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*.
The penalty for late papers is 10% a day.
No papers will be accepted after the last day of classes.

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR MEDICAL ILLNESS

Please see: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

STATEMENT ON USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

No electronic devices will be allowed during tests or examinations

POLICY ON ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

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 at <http://www.uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the

Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

STATEMENT ON USE OF PLAGIARISM SOFTWARE

See <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

All written work must be submitted to *turnitin.com*. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>)
- Student Support Services (<http://westernusc.ca/services/>)