

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2018-19**

**Philosophy 2810G:  
Global Justice and Human Rights**

**Winter Term 2019  
Tuesday 2:30- 4:30, Thursday 2:30- 3:30  
TC 205**

**Instructor: Dean Proessel  
Office Hours: Thursday 1:30- 2:30  
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 poverty? What constitutes a just distribution of benefits? Who owns natural resources and should there be a global redistribution of natural resources? What is global labor justice? Do people have a right to immigrate and what kind of right is this? Do wealthy countries have a moral obligation to admit more migrants? What is at stake in being stateless? Are human rights sufficient to deal with the problem of refugees? Our investigation will draw on works from key thinkers, including Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Charles Beitz, Thomas Pogge, David Miller, Amartya Sen, Martha Nussbaum, Iris Marion Young, Hannah Arendt and Seyla Benhabib.

**TEXTS**

Course package from the University Bookstore

**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 the assigned class readings and participating in class discussion, students will have to complete the following course requirements:

Two short essays, 7 – 8 pages in length, 35% each

Final exam, 30%

## **AUDIT**

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

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES**

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://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.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

[http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

## **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

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **PLAGIARISM CHECKING**

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>.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

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. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.