

Spring 2020

CRN: 18134

# PHIL 2304: GLOBAL ETHICS

How should we behave justly and fairly as global citizens?

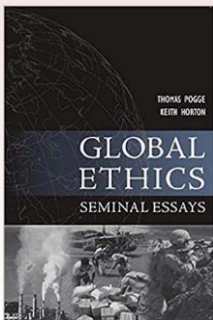
How do our actions affect the lives and deaths of distant strangers?

How do we dismantle the structural injustices that oppress so many of us?

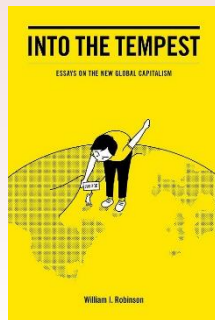
This course discusses these and other urgent topics in a world where national boundaries are losing relevance but no firm cosmopolitan order is yet established. In *Global Ethics* you will:

- learn various ethical and political theories and refine your grasp of the concepts of morality, justice, rights, duties, freedom, power, and oppression
- be able to interpret concepts and events through the lens of moral philosophy, including social media, the news, books, music, movies, TV shows, and documentaries
- understand how historical power relations (especially concerning race, gender, class, and ability) influence many moral and ethical features of public life around the world.

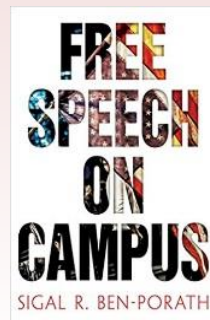
## TEXTBOOKS



***Global Ethics: Seminal Essays***  
Pogge & Horton, eds.  
ISBN: 1557788707



William I. Robinson  
***Into the Tempest: Essays on New Global Capitalism***  
ISBN: 1608469662



Sigal R. Ben-Porath  
***Free Speech on Campus***  
ISBN: 0812250079

## CLASS FORMAT

- We use **Canvas** a lot, so make sure you have access. [Click here](#) or on the picture below:



- 1-2 readings are due on each class day. Most readings are about **15-20 pages long**.
- **Exams are comprehensive** of all material assigned until that point in the course, including in-class discussions.

## ASSIGNMENTS

TESTS 40 points	WORKSHEETS 40 points	POSITION PAPER 40 points	DISCUSSION 40 points	TERM PROJECT 40 points	200 points
two, online, timed, multiple-choice & essay	bulleted outlines of all assigned readings	an argumentative essay, about 1000 words; draft optional	attendance & participation both matter	option of paper, final exam, art, or volunteer service	A = 180+ B = 179-160 C = 159-140 D = 139-120

## DAILY WORKSHEETS

Each class day, download the blank worksheet from Canvas under “Files,” fill it out, and turn it in under “Assignments.” Due on every class day by 9:05 a.m.

Read the **Worksheet Guide** under “Files” for more details.

## TESTS AND EXAMS

The two mandatory tests are multiple-choice, open-book, online, and timed (2 hours for each). You must work alone.

If you choose a final exam for your term project (see below), it will be essay-based and comprehensive of all class material.

## TERM PROJECT

You may choose among four options: a research **paper**, a final **exam**, a piece of **art** (music, painting, sculpture, etc.), or some hours of **community service** or volunteering. Read the **Term Project Guide** under “Files” for more details.

## POSITION PAPER

You will write a **3-4 page (750 to 1000 words) argumentative paper** on a topic related to the class. You may turn in a concept outline or a first draft two weeks before the due date.

## DISCUSSION

Attendance is taken daily. You may earn **discussion credit** by asking questions, giving opinions, debating the opinions of others, posting on the Canvas forums, and always looking attentive and engaged.

## GRADING

- There are 200 possible points in the class, and each assignment is worth 40 points (or 20% of the total class grade). Therefore, each point is worth 0.5% of the total class grade.
- **I do not curve grades.** The most common grade is “B.” Few fail this class; few get an “A.”
- **All grades are final.** I reject complaints based on your opinion without evidence of my mistake.
- If you show improvement over the term, I will weigh your later assignments more favorably (but not the other way around).

## POLICIES

- **Community.** Be punctual, articulate, and polite. This is a professional work environment.
- **Lateness.** Late assignments are penalized 10% per day. If an urgent situation prevents you from completing your work, please discuss it with me.
- **Electronics.** Laptops or tablets are allowed. Use common sense and do not bother other students. I may ask to see your screen at any time.
- **SSD.** Please bring your **SSD documents** 📄 by **January 31**. If you obtain accommodation at a later time, I must sign it at least one week before the test that you want it applied to.

## INSTRUCTOR



- Ph.D. in ASPECT (Ethical and Social Thought) from Virginia Tech
- research: development economics, human rights, multicultural ethics
- see more class resources on my website: [claudiodamato.com](http://claudiodamato.com) 📄
- check out the interdisciplinary **PPE Program at Virginia Tech!** 📄

### STUDENTS IN THIS CLASS ARE EXPECTED TO RESPECT THE HONOR SYSTEM

“A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member or the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code” ([click for source](#)). More at [honorsystem.vt.edu](http://honorsystem.vt.edu) 📄

# READING SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

## HOW TO FIND THE READINGS FOR EACH CLASS DAY:


(GE) = in the “Global Ethics” reader      (R) = in Robinson’s book      (B) in Ben-Porath’s book  
(C) = on Canvas → Files → Readings      (W) = on the web: click on [links](#) 📄 to open them.

Click on **movie titles** to access the streaming links. Movies will also be on Canvas under Files.

## THE BASICS: ETHICS, FREEDOM, JUSTICE



DATE	READING DUE BY CLASS TIME	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
W 1/22	No reading. Syllabus day and the Six Core Theses of global ethics.	
F 1/24	<b>(C) geography worksheet:</b> fill out and bring to class	
M 1/27	<b>(C) Rachels:</b> What is morality?	<b>DAILY WORKSHEETS BEGIN</b>
W 1/29	<b>(W) Carter:</b> <a href="#">Positive and negative liberty</a> 📄 (read only parts 1 and 2)	
F 1/31	<b>(GE) Taylor:</b> Conditions of an unforced consensus on human rights	
M 2/3	<b>(C) Rawls:</b> Excerpt from <i>A Theory of Justice</i>	
W 2/5	<b>(C) Hospers:</b> What libertarianism is	
F 2/7	<b>(C) Nielsen:</b> A moral case for socialism	<b>TEST #1 DUE SUN. 2/9</b>

## GLOBAL INEQUITY: HUNGER, “DEVELOPMENT,” DECOLONIZATION






M 2/10	<b>(GE) Singer:</b> Famine, affluence, and morality	
W 2/12	<b>(C) Nell:</b> Lifeboat Earth (may also be under “O’Neill” instead of “Nell”)	
F 2/14	<b>(C) Nagel:</b> Poverty and food: why charity is not enough	
M 2/17	<b>(GE) Miller:</b> Distributing responsibilities	<b>THE END OF POVERTY?</b> 📄  <b>WATCH BY 2/17</b> 
W 2/19	<b>(GE) Pogge:</b> “Assisting” the global poor	
F 2/21	<b>(GE) Sen:</b> The concept of development	
M 2/24	<b>(C) Taylor Saito:</b> Decolonization, development, and denial (sec. I-II-III)	<b>BLACK PANTHER</b> 📄  <b>MOVIE DEBATE IN CLASS (2/28)</b> 
W 2/26	<b>(C) Taylor Saito:</b> Decolonization, development, and denial (sec. IV-V)	
F 2/28	<b>(W) Rogers:</b> <a href="#">The many dimensions of Black Panther</a> 📄	
M 3/2	<b>(W) Cole:</b> <a href="#">The white-savior industrial complex</a> 📄	
W 3/4	<b>(W) Kapoor:</b> <a href="#">Celebrity humanitarianism: the ideology of global charity</a> 📄	
F 3/6	Optional in-class test review. No daily worksheet.	<b>TEST #2 DUE SUN. 3/8</b>

**SPRING BREAK: SAT 3/7 – SUN 3/15**

## GLOBAL FUTURES: LABOR, MIGRATION, ENVIRONMENT

<b>WEEK 10</b> (3/23 – 3/29) <i>Global Capitalism</i>	<b>(R) Robinson:</b> 1. Globalization: nine theses on our epoch <b>(R) Robinson:</b> 3. The new global economy and the TCC <b>(R) Robinson:</b> 4. The nation-state and the transnational state	Lecture available: <b>M 3/23, 9:00a</b> Worksheets due: <b>S 3/29, 11:59p</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b> (3/30 – 4/6) <i>Nationalism &amp; Borders</i>	<b>(GE) Beitz:</b> Cosmopolitan ideals and national sentiment <b>(C) Carens:</b> Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders <b>(R) Robinson:</b> 6. Global capitalism, migrant labor, and social justice	Lecture available: <b>M 3/30, 9:00a</b> Worksheets due: <b>S 4/5, 11:59p</b> Term project decision due: <b>S 4/5</b>
<b>WEEK 12</b> (4/6 – 4/12) <i>Climate &amp; Health</i>	<b>(W) Milman:</b> "We're moving to higher ground"  <b>(GE) Shue:</b> Subsistence emissions and luxury emissions <b>(C) WHO:</b> Ethical considerations of pandemic influenza (§ 2,3,4) <b>(C) WHO:</b> Ethical issues in infectious disease outbreaks (§ 3,4,5,6,12) Watch movie: <b>AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH</b>  (click title for links)	Lecture available: <b>M 4/6, 9:00a</b> Worksheets due: <b>S 4/12, 11:59p</b> Paper draft due: <b>S 4/12, 11:59p</b>

## GLOBAL DISAGREEMENTS: SPEECH, ACTIVISM, VIOLENCE

<b>WEEK 13</b> (4/13 – 4/19) <i>"Just" War &amp; Violence</i>	<b>(GE) Luban:</b> Just war and human rights <b>(GE) Walzer:</b> The moral standing of states: a response to four critics <b>(W) Wink:</b> <i>The myth of redemptive violence</i>  Watch movie: <b>THE THIN RED LINE</b>  (click title for links)	Lecture available: <b>M 4/13, 9:00a</b> Worksheets due: <b>S 4/19, 11:59p</b>
<b>WEEK 14</b> (4/20 – 4/26) <i>Fascism &amp; Resistance</i>	<b>(R) Robinson:</b> 9. The global police state <b>(C) Eco:</b> Ur-Fascism <b>(C) Fanon:</b> On violence (pp. 1-4) <b>(C) Torres:</b> Crossroads of the church in Latin America	Lecture available: <b>M 4/20, 9:00a</b> Worksheets due: <b>S 4/26, 11:59p</b> Full paper due: <b>S 4/26, 11:59p</b>
<b>WEEK 15</b> (4/27 – 5/3) <i>Speech &amp; Action</i>	<b>(B) Ben-Porath:</b> <i>Free Speech on Campus</i> (chapters 1, 2) <b>(B) Ben-Porath:</b> <i>Free Speech on Campus</i> (chapters 3, 4, 5) <b>(W) Principles of Community</b>  – <b>Policy 1025</b>  – <b>Tim Sands letter</b>  <b>(C) Le Guin:</b> The ones who walk away from Omelas	Lecture available: <b>M 4/27, 9:00a</b> Worksheets due: <b>S 5/3, 11:59p</b>
<b>T 5/12</b>	<b>Term project due: refer to the Term Project Guide for more details.</b>	