

Welcome! ☺ Read the entire syllabus: all that's worth knowing is here and all that's here is worth knowing.
You may not claim ignorance of anything in this syllabus, so read it well and ask if you have questions!

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the class is to answer, at least in part, these three questions: (A) Which moral and political *problems* will necessarily arise in a multicultural world? (B) Which moral and political *theories* can we use to solve these problems? (C) How do *you* function as a moral-political thinker in a society of moral-political thinkers whose assumptions and conclusions differ so greatly from your own?

Some of the readings in this course overlap with those typically found in PHIL 1304, while others go deeper or explore new ground. 1304 is not a prerequisite, but if you have taken it you will find some of the reading more accessible. Conversely, 2304 is indispensable if you wish to continue in moral and political philosophy, political science, or law, as it will make a major critical contribution to your study of those fields.

Remember that the goal of philosophy is the search for wisdom and truth, not harmony. It requires that you attack or defend the ideas of other people, so you must take a critical stance toward our readings and discussion alike. "Agreeing to disagree" may be commendable in life but is rather poor scholarship. At the same time, you must respect the arguments of others, especially those of our authors: they know more than you do and you have a lot to learn. This balance between an open mind and a critical mind is very difficult to achieve, so try your hardest!

REQUIRED TEXTS

A. Bailey, R. Martin. *First Philosophy Vol. I: Values and Society, 2nd Ed.* ISBN: 9781551119724.
T. Pogge, K. Horton. *Global Ethics: Seminal Essays.* ISBN: 9781557788702.
K. Hutchings. *Global Ethics: An Introduction.* ISBN: 9780745636825.

PAPER

3-4 pages, double-spaced; other guidelines will follow. The introduction must include your thesis (what you argue), summarize your main claims, and show how each claim supports your thesis. The rest of the paper discusses each claim in turn, presenting your reasoning and evidence for it. ***This format is mandatory.*** No research outside of our textbooks is required or recommended: I want to read your ideas.

Before you write, ***you should send me an outline or see me (by appointment).*** The sooner the better.

Upload the paper to Scholar or hand in a hard copy. Papers are due ***at the beginning of class.*** Late papers will incur a ***5% grade deduction*** for each day they are late. The due date after class time counts as day one. Late submissions due to extenuating circumstances must be arranged in advance and documented.

"Good content + bad writing = bad grade." Excellent grammar and clear style are expected. Visit the writing center or talk to me if you need help.

EXAMS

You will do a ***take-home midterm*** and a ***final in class.*** Upload the midterm to your Scholar drop box. The final is comprehensive and open-book, and you must use Blue Books; no electronic devices. You may not make up a missed exam without prior arrangements. Late midterms will not be accepted.

WRITING WORKSHOPS (WW)

These are short writing exercises that will help you recognize good and bad philosophical writing and write better yourself, which will be useful for your paper. The focus is not on *what* you say, but in *how* you say it.

We will do three workshops: (1) summarize a reading in three short paragraphs; (2) pick a side in a debate and defend it; (3) grade an old paper from this course. For the first two workshops you will practice with an ungraded exercise and receive feedback, and then you will do a graded exercise one or two weeks later. The third workshop is only ungraded. I will also post optional extra exercises on Scholar for your use.

QUIZZES

Eleven, unannounced, in class. Each quiz is worth up to 3 points and concerns the reading due that day. At the end of the course I will drop your lowest score. If you took fewer than ten, no scores will be dropped.

FILM WORKSHEET

Watch James Cameron's *Avatar* on your own. On 11/28 you will turn in a worksheet about it and we will discuss it. The DVD is on reserve for us at Newman Library: ask a librarian at the circulation desk. You may keep the DVD for up to 48 hours. Of course, it is also available from all video rental stores and websites.

GRADING

The maximum possible points is 300, thus distributed:

Paper = **100** Final = **70** Midterm = **50** Workshops = **30** Quizzes = **30** Film = **20**

A 279 A- 270 B+ 261 B 249 B- 240 C+ 231 C 219 C- 210 D+ 201 D 189 D- 180

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Attendance is taken daily. Absences **1-5**: allowed even if unexcused. **6-15**: each -3 points, unless excused. **16**: you're dropped from the course. Significant participation is worth up to 15 extra-credit points.

To excuse absences, bring: (1) a physician's note with contact information; or (2) a letter by the supervisor of a VT-endorsed extra-curricular activity. Missed class work can be made up if the absence is excused.

GRADE CONTESTATION

If you think you have received an unfair grade on an assignment, please e-mail me a written appeal within 3 days of receiving the graded assignment. In your appeal, explain the specific parts of your assignment that you think I have graded unfairly. Include what you think the proper assessment should be and why. I will then review your appeal and return the re-graded assignment to you within 3 days.

Appealing the grade means to "re-open the case": you are not punished just for having appealed, but you're also not warranted any benefits. If I find that I had been correct the first time, your grade will stay the same. If I find that I had been too strict, I will raise it. And if I find that I had been too lenient, I will lower it. Thus, if you think you have a strong case, then by all means appeal. If not, spare yourself the time and the risk.

ACCOMMODATION

Please see or e-mail me if you need accommodation due to learning disabilities or any other health-related reasons: we will work with you right away. Make sure to bring it up with me no later than **Friday 9/2**.

VIRGINIA TECH HONOR CODE

www.honorsystem.vt.edu I take our honor code very seriously and so should you. Know the ins and outs of your dos and don'ts: plagiarism due to distraction or sloppiness is still plagiarism and may be punished as if it were intentional cheating. All violations will be reported to the Undergraduate Honor Court.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Since several readings are only available electronically, you may use a laptop, Kindle, Nook, Galaxy, iPad, or other electronic reader that is *not* also a cell phone. All uses unrelated to class are forbidden.

ALL OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES MUST REMAIN OFF. NOT ON VIBRATE: OFF. NO EXCEPTIONS.

First infraction = no points for the day. Second infraction = you're dismissed from the course.

READING SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

(H) = reading is in Hutchings' book. **(BM)** = reading is in the Bailey/Martin anthology.

(S) = reading is available on Scholar. **(PH)** = reading is in the Pogge/Horton anthology.

Introduction

Syllabus review. Introductory lecture.	M 8/22
Hutchings: "What is global ethics?" (H 1-19)	W 8/24
Rachels: "The challenge of cultural relativism" (S) WW #1a in class	F 8/26

Ethical and political theories

Ethical rationalism	Hutchings: "Rationalist ethical theories" (H 28-32; 38-42)	M 8/29
	Mill: <i>Utilitarianism</i> (BM 97-109)	W 8/31
	Kant: <i>Foundations</i> (S)	F 9/2
Ethical anti-rationalism	Hutchings: "Alternatives to ethical rationalism" (H 54-66) WW #1b (graded)	M 9/5
	Hume: <i>Principles of Morals</i> (S; section 5, part 2; pp. 27-35)	W 9/7
	Aristotle: <i>The Nicomachean Ethics</i> (BM 38-46; Books I-II)	F 9/9
Applied ethics	Thomson/Marquis: "Two views on abortion" (S)	M 9/12
	Steorts/Girgis: "Two views on marriage equality" (S)	W 9/14
	No reading. In-class video: "The Outcast."	F 9/16
Political theories	Marx/Engels: <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> (BM 249-256) WW #2 (graded)	M 9/19
	Hospers: "What libertarianism is: The libertarian manifesto" (S)	W 9/21
	Nielsen: "A moral case for socialism" (S)	F 9/23
	Rawls: <i>Justice as Fairness</i> (BM 280-284; intro + §12)	M 9/26
	Rawls: <i>Justice as Fairness</i> (BM 284-289; §13)	W 9/28

Contemporary global issues

Development & famine relief	Hutchings: "Ethics of international aid and development" (H 83-105) <i>Take-home midterm questions assigned.</i>	F 9/30
	Singer: "Famine, affluence, and morality" (PH 1-14)	M 10/3
	Hardin: "Lifeboat ethics: The case against helping the poor" (PH 15-27)	W 10/5
	NO CLASS. TAKE-HOME MIDTERM DUE ON SCHOLAR BY 5 P.M.	F 10/7
	Gardiner: "The real tragedy of the commons" (PH 447-467)	M 10/10
	O'Neill: "Rights, obligations, and world hunger" (PH 139-155)	W 10/12
	No reading. WW #3 in class	F 10/14
Development & distributive justice	Hutchings: "Global distributive justice" (H 111-133) <i>Paper topics assigned.</i>	M 10/17
	Sen: "The concept of development" (PH 157-174) <i>sections 2,3,4,6,7</i>	W 10/19
	Nussbaum: "Central human capabilities" (S; section IV; pp. 33-47)	F 10/21
	Rawls: <i>The Law of Peoples</i> (PH 431-447) <i>Graded midterm returned.</i>	M 10/24
	Pogge: "'Assisting' the global poor" (PH 531-545)	W 10/26
	Pogge: "'Assisting' the global poor" (PH 545-561)	F 10/28
Nationality & just war theory	Hutchings: "Ethics of war" (H 137-164)	M 10/31
	Luban: "Just war and human rights" (PH 29-47)	W 11/2
	Walzer: "The moral standing of states" (PH 58-69) <i>III-V</i>	F 11/4
Nationality & immigration	MacIntyre: "Is patriotism a virtue?" (PH 119-138) PAPER DUE	M 11/7
	Walzer: "The distribution of membership" (S)	W 11/9
	Carens: "Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders" (S)	F 11/11
Gender Equality	Okin: "Gender inequalities and cultural differences" (PH 233-251)	M 11/14
	Jaggar: "'Saving Amina'" (PH 565-585)	W 11/16
	Merrill: "That Only a Mother" (S)	F 11/18
THANKSGIVING BREAK, NOVEMBER 19-27: NO CLASSES THIS WEEK		
Imperialism & culture clash	Newitz: "When will white people stop making movies like <i>Avatar</i> ?" (S) FILM WORKSHEET DUE. Graded paper returned.	M 11/28
	Hitchens: "Superpower dominance, malignant and benign" (S)	W 11/30
	Barber: "Jihad vs. McWorld" (S)	F 12/2
Conclusion	Rorty: "Who are we?" (PH 313-325) Nietzsche: <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> (BM 125-129) <i>Graded worksheet returned.</i>	M 12/5

Review and final

The Truth! + Final exam review.	W 12/7
OPTIONAL last-minute final exam review on reading day. Time and place TBA.	R 12/8
COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM: 7:45 A.M. Bring your readings and notes.	F 12/9