

Summer 2020 Session 3 (Online)

CRN: 64406

PHIL 2304: GLOBAL ETHICS

How should we behave justly and fairly as global citizens?

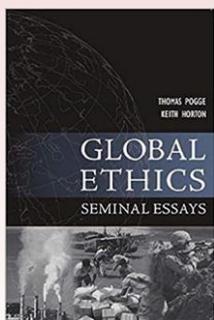
How do our actions affect the lives and deaths of distant strangers?

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.

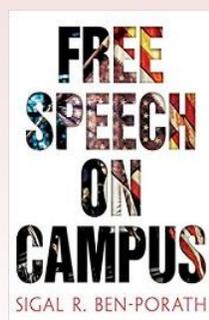
TEXTBOOKS



**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

ALL BOOKS ARE REQUIRED! Any edition is fine, e-books included.

FORMAT

- Make sure you have access to the Canvas website: [click here](#).
- On Mondays I'll upload a video lecture to Canvas to assist you with the week's readings.
- 2 to 4 readings are due each week. Most are about **15-20 pages long**.
- At the end of each week you'll turn in bullet-point outlines of all the readings.
- **Exams are comprehensive** of all material assigned until that point in the course.

ASSIGNMENTS

TESTS	OUTLINES	POSITION PAPER	DISCUSSION	TERM PROJECT	200 points
40 points	40 points	40 points	40 points	40 points	
two, online, timed, multiple-choice & essay	summaries of all readings, to be turned in weekly	an argumentative essay, about 1000 words; draft optional	participate often and well on the Canvas forums	option of paper, final exam, art, or volunteer service	A = 180+ B = 179-160 C = 159-140 D = 139-120

OUTLINES

Each week, download the blank outlines from [Files](#), fill them out, and turn them in under [Assignments](#). These are due each Sunday by 11:59 p.m. Read the **Outline Guide** that's under [Files](#) carefully.

TESTS

The two **mandatory multiple-choice tests** are open-book, online, and timed (2 hours 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.

PROJECT

You may choose from among **four options**: a research **paper**, a final **exam**, a piece of **art** (music, painting, etc.), or some hours of **volunteering** or community service. Read the **Term Project Guide** under [Files](#).

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 rough drafts to receive feedback any time before the due date.

DISCUSSION

You earn **discussion credit** by posting regularly on the Canvas forums. Ask questions, give opinions, debate the opinions of others, offer alternative explanations, etc. Both the quantity and the quality of your posts matter!

GRADING

- There are 200 possible points in the class. 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 articulate and polite when you post. 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.
- **Movies.** You can stream all required movies on Canvas for free, but you may not download them for your own personal use.
- **SSD.** Please email me your **SSD documents** by **June 1**. If you obtain accommodation at a later time, I must sign it at least one week before the test(s) that you want it applied to.

INSTRUCTOR



- Ph.D. in ASPECT (Ethical and Social Thought) from Virginia Tech
- research: postcolonial development justice, capabilities, human rights
- see more class resources on my website: 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

READING SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

HOW TO FIND THE READINGS:

(GE) = in the “Global Ethics” reader (R) = in the Robinson book (B) in the Ben-Porath book
 (F) = on Canvas under Files (W) = on external websites: click on [links](#) to open them

Video lectures will be available under *Media Gallery* on **Monday**.
 After watching the lectures, do the readings **Monday through Saturday**.
 Finally, turn in your completed outlines for all assigned readings by **Sunday**.

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

I. THE BASICS: ETHICS, FREEDOM, JUSTICE

WEEK 1 <i>Introduction</i>	(F) Rachels : What is morality? D’Amato : Geography worksheet (<i>see second blank outline</i>)	Lecture up: Tue. 5/26 Outlines due: Sun. 5/31
WEEK 2 <i>Liberty</i>	(W) Carter : Positive and negative liberty (parts 1 and 2) (F) Rawls : Excerpt from <i>A Theory of Justice</i> (GE) Taylor : Conditions of an unforced consensus on human rights	Lecture up: Mon. 6/1 Outlines due: Sun. 6/7
WEEK 3 <i>Justice</i>	(W) McAfee : Feminist philosophy (parts 2.1 and 2.2) (W) James : Philosophy of race (part 4) (GE) Jaggart : “Saving” Amina: Global justice for women (part 2)	Lecture up: Mon. 6/8 Outlines due: Sun. 6/14
FIRST TEST due under <i>Quizzes</i> by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, June 14 th		

II. GLOBAL INEQUITIES: (DE)COLONIZATION AND DESTITUTION

WEEK 4 <i>Decolonization</i>	(F) Taylor Saito : Decolonization, development, and denial Watch movie: BLACK PANTHER (click title for links)	Lecture up: Mon. 6/15 Outlines due: Sun. 6/21
WEEK 5 <i>Poverty</i>	(GE) Singer : Famine, affluence, and morality (F) Nell : Lifeboat Earth (GE) Miller : Distributing responsibilities	Lecture up: Mon. 6/22 Outlines due: Sun. 6/28
WEEK 6 <i>Distribution</i>	(F) Nagel : Poverty and food: why charity is not enough (GE) Pogge : “Assisting” the global poor Watch movie: THE END OF POVERTY? (click for links)	Lecture up: Mon. 6/29 Outlines due: Sun. 7/5
SECOND TEST due under <i>Quizzes</i> by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, July 5 th		

III. GLOBAL SYSTEMS: NATION, CAPITAL, SOCIETY

WEEK 7 <i>Capitalism</i>	(R) Robinson : 1. Globalization: nine theses on our epoch (R) Robinson : 3. The new global economy and the TCC (R) Robinson : 4. The nation-state and the transnational state	Lecture up: Mon. 7/6 Outlines due: Sun. 7/12
WEEK 8 <i>Socialism</i>	(F) Nielsen : A moral case for socialism (F) Moehler : An unconditional subsistence income (W) –optional– Quiggin : The golden age 📄	Term Project decision due Mon. 7/13 Lecture up: Mon. 7/13 Outlines due: Sun. 7/19
WEEK 9 <i>Citizenship</i>	(GE) Beitz : Cosmopolitan ideals and national sentiment (F) Carens : Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders (R) Robinson : 6. Global capitalism, migrant labor, social justice (GE) –optional– Walzer : The moral standing of states	Lecture up: Mon. 7/20 Outlines due: Sun. 7/26
POSITION PAPER due under <i>Assignments</i> by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, July 26 th		

IV. GLOBAL INTERVENTIONS: RESISTANCE, SPEECH, ACTION

WEEK 10 <i>Resistance</i>	(R) Robinson : 9. The global police state (F) Eco : Ur-fascism (F) Fanon : On violence (F) Torres : Crossroads of the church in Latin America	Lecture up: Mon. 7/27 Outlines due: Sun. 8/2
WEEK 11 <i>Speech</i>	(B) Ben-Porath : <i>Free Speech on Campus</i> (chapters 1, 2, 3, 4) (W) Principles of Community 📄 – Policy 1025 📄 – Tim Sands letter 📄	Lecture up: Mon. 8/3 Outlines due: Sun. 8/9
WEEK 12 <i>Action</i>	(W) Kapoor : Celebrity humanitarianism 📄 (W) Cole : The white-savior industrial complex 📄 (F) Le Guin : The ones who walk away from Omelas	Lecture up: Mon. 8/10 Outlines due: Fri. 8/14
TERM PROJECT due under <i>Assignments</i> or <i>Quizzes</i> by 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 16 th		