

PHIL 2304

Global Ethics

office hours: MWF 9:30-11 am
only on Zoom (ID: 591 824 3118)

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Fall 2020 Online – CRN 64406

MW 2:30-3:45 p.m. – [Canvas website](#) ↗

FORMAT

- ❖ Zoom ID for all class meetings: **924 1412 5241**. There are no in-person meetings.
- ❖ Read this PDF file thoroughly before class begins: [PHIL 2304 Online Course Policies](#). ↗
- ❖ Students must respect by the Honor System. If you have concerns, you must obtain specific guidance from me: ignorance of the rules does not excuse plagiarism. Find out more at [honorsystem.vt.edu](#) ↗
- ❖ Please send me SSD accommodations to sign by Sep. 2, or one week before the test or assignment you want them applied to.

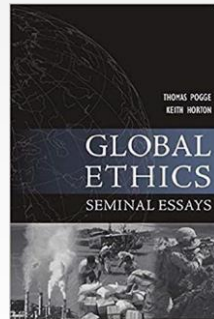
GOALS

National boundaries are quickly losing relevance in the world, but no cosmopolitan order exists yet. How does this **semi-globalization** affect our everyday lives?

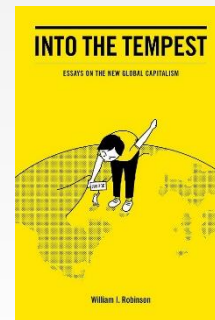
In this class you will:

- Learn various moral theories and refine your grasp of the concepts of morality, justice, liberty, power, and oppression.
- Be able to interpret concepts and events through the lens of moral philosophy, including social media and the news.
- Understand how historical power relations (of gender, sex, race, class, and ability) influence many ethical and political features of public life.

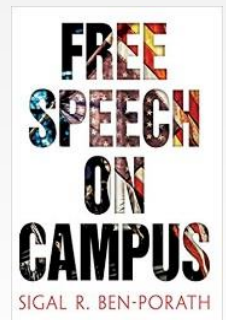
BOOKS



Global Ethics: Seminal Essays
Pogge & Horton



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



Sigal R. Ben-Porath
Free Speech on Campus

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

ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment is worth 40 points (20% of the total grade). Total possible points: 200.

Tests

Two, online, open-book, timed: 120 minutes each.

Tests are mostly multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and matching.

Outlines

Summaries of all the readings, plus your discussion question.

Must be turned in on Canvas on each class day before 2:30 p.m.

Paper

750-1000 word argumentative essay. Choice among four topics.

You may turn in rough drafts our outlines up to two weeks before due.

Discussion

Participate regularly during Zoom meetings and on the Canvas forums.

Participation quantity & quality both matter.

Project

Four options: final exam, research paper, art portfolio, or some hours of community service.

I must pre-approve your project by November 9.

READING SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES

HOW TO FIND THE READINGS:

(G) = *Global Ethics* book **(R)** = Robinson book **(B)** Ben-Porath book **(C)** = Canvas → *Files*
(W) = on external websites: click on [links](#) to open **(M)** = movies: click [links](#) to see streaming options

Readings, movies, and assignments must be completed by the day that they are assigned for.
Outlines are due on Canvas under *Assignments* on each class day before 2:30 p.m.

1. The Basics: Ethics, Freedom, Justice

Public health	♦ Mon, Aug. 24		Course presentation.	
	♦ Wed, Aug. 26	(W)	Sikkink : Rights & responsibilities in the coronavirus pandemic	
		(W)	VT response: enforcement policy and Tim Sands 8/18 letter	
Ethics, politics, and justice	♦ Mon, Aug. 31	(W)	Carter : Positive and negative liberty (parts 1 and 2)	
		(C)	Skinner : A third concept of liberty	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 2	(C)	Rawls : Excerpt from <i>A Theory of Justice</i>	
	♦ Mon, Sep. 7		Labor day. No class.	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 9	(W)	McAfee : Feminist philosophy	§2.1, 2.2
		(W)	James : Philosophy of race	§2,3,4

FIRST EXAM due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Fri, Sep. 11** at 11:59 p.m.

2. Global Inequities: Destitution and (De)colonization

Colonialism and decolonization	♦ Mon, Sep. 14	(C)	Taylor Saito : Decolonization, development, and denial	
		(M)	Watch movie: Black Panther	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 16	(G)	Miller : Distributing responsibilities	
Global poverty & radical inequality	♦ Mon, Sep. 21	(G)	Singer : Famine, affluence, and morality	
		(C)	Nell : Lifeboat Earth	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 23	(C)	Nagel : Poverty and food: why charity is not enough	
	♦ Mon, Sep. 28	(G)	Pogge : "Assisting" the global poor	
		(M)	Watch movie: The End of Poverty?	
	♦ Wed, Sep. 30	(C)	Sen : The concept of development	
Humanitarianism & the aid industry	♦ Mon, Oct. 5	(C)	Cole : The white-savior industrial complex	
		(W)	Kapoor : Celebrity humanitarianism	
	♦ Wed, Oct. 7	(C)	Weiss : Principles, politics, and humanitarian action	

SECOND EXAM due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Fri, Oct. 9** at 11:59 p.m.

3. Global Systems: Borders, Capital, Environment

Environmental justice	♦ Mon, Oct. 12	(W) Milman: “We’re moving to higher ground”
		(M) Watch movie: <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>
	♦ Wed, Oct. 14	(G) Gardiner: The real tragedy of the commons
Capitalism and socialism	♦ Mon, Oct. 19	(R) Robinson: 1. Globalization: nine theses on our epoch
		(R) Robinson: 3. The new global economy and the TCC
	♦ Wed, Oct. 21	(R) Robinson: 4. The nation-state and the transnational state
	♦ Mon, Oct. 26	(C) Nielsen: A moral case for socialism
	♦ Wed, Oct. 28	(C) Löwy: What is ecosocialism?
	(W) Quiggin: <i>The golden age</i>	
		<i>Optional: position paper rough draft due no later than Fri, Oct. 30</i>
Migration and membership	♦ Mon, Nov. 2	(C) Carens: Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders
	♦ Wed, Nov. 4	(R) Robinson: 6. Global capitalism, migrant labor, and social justice

POSITION PAPER due on Canvas under *Assignments* no later than **Fri, Nov. 6** at 11:59 p.m.

TERM PROJECT DECISION due on Canvas under *Quizzes* no later than **Fri, Nov. 6** at 11:59 p.m.

4. Global Interventions: Resistance, Speech, Action

Nationalism, fascism, and resistance	♦ Mon, Nov. 9	(G) Beitz: Cosmopolitan ideals and national sentiment
		(G) Taylor: Conditions of an unforced consensus on human rights
	♦ Wed, Nov. 11	(G) Walzer: The moral standing of states
	♦ Mon, Nov. 16	(C) Eco: Ur-fascism
		(R) Robinson: 9. The global police state
	♦ Wed, Nov. 18	(C) Fanon: On violence
		(C) Torres: Crossroads of the church in Latin America

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 21-29

Speech & dignity	♦ Mon, Nov. 30	(B) Ben-Porath: <i>Free Speech on Campus</i>
	♦ Wed, Dec. 2	(W) <i>Principles of Community</i> – <i>Policy 1025</i> – <i>Tim Sands letter</i>
Choice & action	♦ Mon, Dec. 7	(G) Rorty: Who are we? Moral universalism and economic triage
	♦ Wed, Dec. 9	(C) Le Guin: The ones who walk away from Omelas

TERM PROJECT due on Canvas under *Quizzes* or *Assignments* no later than **Sat, Dec. 12** at 11:59 p.m.