

Philosophy 335
ETHICS OF WAR
 Fall Semester 2018

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 2.00 - 3.00 pm; Thursdays, 3.30 – 5.00 pm

WELCOME TO THE CLASS! ☺

War, the use of organized violence for political purposes, has been a repeated occurrence throughout the course of human history and in every corner of the globe. The events that take place in war are captured for posterity in works of literature and the arts, and studied by military scientists, historians, political theorists and philosophers. Many cultures and people draw their identity and inspiration from victories (and defeats) in past wars. But war has also eradicated cultures and devastated communities. The frequency and intensity with which wars are fought, especially in recent times, and the human suffering caused by war, have prompted philosophers to re-evaluate the ethics of war.

Are there good and bad wars? Who has the authority to declare war? What are the limits to national sovereignty? Are there occasions when one is obligated to intervene militarily? Are there moral limits to what soldiers can do to win a war? How should civilians be treated in war? This course examines the just war theory that originated in the early years of Christianity and that has developed into a secular doctrine and the basis of international law. We will discuss the issues facing this doctrine and how it applies to recent wars.

Objectives of the Course

- To read and discuss some of the historical writings on the ethics of war
- To understand the ideas and concepts found in the just war tradition
- To discuss the contemporary challenges and alternatives to just war theory
- To apply principles of ethics to the war in Iraq and the tactic of terrorism
- To appreciate the advantages of using philosophical reasoning in moral discourse

What to Expect from this Course

Classes will be run as seminars in which discussion is required. I will assume that you have read the material for each session *before* coming to class, and that you will also have reflected on the discussion of previous sessions. You will be expected to ask and answer questions, to raise critical points for discussion in class. I will present some points and issues for each session, but classroom time will mainly involve open discussion for which everyone should be prepared to participate. You are also encouraged to hold follow-up

discussions with fellow students outside of the classroom, and to post items in the Discussion forum on D2L.

Please note that *regular use of D2L* is a component of the work expected of you in this class. You should therefore be logging on a few times a week to participate in the Discussion forum and to read material that I add to the Content page. I will read all your contributions, and may make use of points that you post on D2L in class discussion!

I welcome comments, suggestions, and questions about the course. If you do not have the opportunity to bring up a point in class, or if you have something to discuss with me that may not be of interest to the rest of the class, you are encouraged to see me in my office.

I have designed the course so that any student, who participates in class consistently, does all essential readings, and submits all assigned work on time, will be likely to do well enough to get a decent grade. However, if a topic is especially interesting to you, I will be happy to suggest further readings for you to research and discuss in your written work. *Extra research may be used to your advantage in essays or class discussion, including any research you do on the historical events and wars presented as examples in the assigned readings, and which you may cite to illustrate ideas discussed in class.*

Required Work and Assessment

Your overall grade for the course is comprised of the following weighted components:

Two Term Papers (30% each) are required, due in class on **October 23, 2018** and **December 4, 2018**. You will be required to submit a thesis statement prior to writing your essay, which will be graded and worth 5%. The submitted essay will be worth 25%. Each essay should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words in length, typed double-spaced on one side of the paper in 12-point font, with margins of at least one inch from each border. *Citing of sources using footnotes or in-text referencing is required.* The word-count should be stated on the last page. There is a penalty for essays that are late or too short.

Reading quizzes will be held at the start of class. (So please be in class on time!) You will answer a question on the readings for the day. A correct answer will earn you half a percentage point. More than 20 quizzes will be held and you can earn points above 10%!

There will be a Final Exam at the end of the semester. The final will comprise of short-essay questions and is worth 20% of your overall grade.

Class Participation (10%) is graded with marks earned through (a) regular contributions to class discussion and (b) postings on the course D2L website. Participation during each class and contributions to D2L will be counted. Excused absences will not be taken into account, but an unexcused session will be counted as zero participation for that session.

Note 1: It is important for you to be in class to contribute with questions and comments in discussions with your classmates. So regular class attendance is expected. *You should not be surprised if you have difficulty doing the essays if you miss class too often!*

Although I will excuse absences on the basis of illness, family tragedy, or other circumstances at my discretion, I should normally be notified within 3 days of your absence. Your class participation grade will be affected by unexcused absences from class and you will also incur a loss of marks for any assigned work due that day. *If you get a warning from me for repeated absences without excuse, your final grade may be adjusted to a lower grade.*

Note 2: You are expected to earn your grade by doing all of the required work. *Sorry: You should not expect to submit other work for credit to replace any of the above items!* And essays will only be graded once and can't be resubmitted after they have been graded.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	60-66
F	59 and below

(By using D2L, you can check your marks for any work that has been graded. Course grades will be available on D2L as soon as your finals have been graded.)

Academic Health Warning: You will automatically receive zero marks for the assignment if you commit any acts of dishonesty, such as plagiarism, in your work!

(Reference: UWS/UWSP Chapter 14, Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures found at www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11.)

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: The ADA is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. UWSP's policies can be found at: www.uwsp.edu/hr/Pages/AffirmativeAction/ADA.aspx.

If you require *classroom and/or exam accommodations*, please register with the **Disability and Assistive Technology Center** and then contact me at the beginning of the course. For more information, please visit the Disability Center's office, located at 604 LRC or their webpage at: www.uwsp.edu/datc/Pages/default.aspx.

Essay Grading Criteria

Grade A: Paper is clearly structured, relevant to the question, accurately discussing more than one point of view, showing awareness of strengths and weaknesses of each view,

and coming to a conclusion supported by reasoned argument. There should be a clear line of argument running through the paper, without repetition of points. Expression should be precise and concise. The paper should be almost completely free of grammatical, spelling and typing errors. *Evidence of independent or critical thinking is required.*

Grade B: Good organization of material, clarity, relevance, reasoned argument, and grammatical correctness are jointly necessary. A Grade B paper has most of the attributes of a Grade A paper, except that the essay is lacking in originality. But a paper with originality may also be given a B grade if there are some faults, such as inaccuracies in presenting the views under discussion, or if the paper lacks balance and is too one-sided.

Grade C: Paper has attributes of a Grade B paper, except that the essay has not answered the question in a relevant and thorough way, or the ideas are poorly organized, or there are unsupported claims, or there are too many grammatical mistakes, or a combination of some but not all these factors.

Grade D: Paper falls short of the requirements for a Grade C paper in a number of ways, but deserves a passing grade because the writer shows some engagement with the material on the topic, although he or she has failed to make good use of this knowledge.

Grade F: A paper will be awarded a failing grade if the writer does not display any evidence of engagement with the material on the topic, or seems to have put in little effort in writing, or falls badly short of most of the requirements of good writing, or parts of the paper are copied from readings without attribution (plagiarism).

Required Textbooks

E-book available online from UWSP library:

Moral Constraints on War: Principles and Cases, 2nd edn., ed. Bruno Coppieters & Nick Fotion (Lanham: Lexington Books, 2008) [CF]

Text Rental:

The Morality of War: Classical and Contemporary Readings, ed. Larry May, Eric Rovie & Steve Viner (Upper Saddle River: Pearson Prentice-Hall, 2006) [MRV]

Schedule of Topics and Readings

- Sep 4 Course introduction
- Sep 6 Video: "War Ethics"
- Sep 11 *Thinking About War* [CF 1-20]

History of the Ethics of War

- Sep 13 Cicero, Augustine, Aquinas [MRV 5-7, 15-20, 27-33]
- Sep 18 Vitoria, Suarez [MRV 38-49, 59-65]
- Sep 20 Gentili, Grotius [MRV 49-58, 66-79]
- Sep 25 Hobbes, Pufendorf [MRV 80-95]
- Sep 27 Kant, Clausewitz [MRV 110-22]

Theoretical Issues in the Just War Tradition

Self-Defense

Oct 2 CF 27-43

Oct 4 Walzer, Luban [MRV 250-61, 272-80]

Humanitarian Intervention

Oct 9 CF 43-49, Luban, Teson [MRV 344-60]

Oct 11 Wilkins, Lucas Jr [MRV 361-80]

Legitimate Authority

Oct 16 CF 55-70

Right Intention

Oct 18 CF 73-88

Likelihood of Success and Proportionality

Oct 23 CF 101-14, 125-32

Last Resort

Oct 25 CF 139-51

In Bello Proportionality

Oct 30 CF 155-67

The Doctrine of Double Effect

Nov 1 CF 167-69, Boyle [MRV 164-73]

Nov 6 Bennett, Walzer [MRV187-92, 193-99]

Discrimination and Immunity of Non-Combatants

Nov 8 Video: "Rules of Engagement"

Nov 13 CF 171-86

Nov 15 Nagel, Mavrodes [MRV 213-34]

New Challenges for Just War Theory

The War in Iraq

Nov 20 Video: "The Invasion of Iraq"

Nov 27 CF 88-96, 279-98

Nov 29 Sapiro, Galston [MRV 396-412]

Terrorism

Dec 4 CF 261-75, Valls [MRV 316-26]

Dec 6 Walzer, Fullinwider [MRV 297-315]

Dec 11 CF 186-88, Boyle [MRV 327-39]

Pacifism versus Just War

Dec 13 Narveson, Yoder [MRV 141-47, 153-59]

Dec 17, 10:15am - 12:15pm Final Exam

UWSP Emergency Procedures

In the event of a *medical emergency*, call 911 or use red emergency phone located **across from the classroom exit**. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a *tornado warning*, proceed to the shelter area in the **hallway outside the classroom**.

In the event of a *fire alarm*, evacuate the building in a calm manner. A suggested meeting place outside the building is at the Isadore Street side of Lot E between CCC and NFAC Buildings. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See *UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan* at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response procedures at UW-Stevens Point.