

FYS 100: Philosophy of War

C. Thompson  
Fall 2009  
Tribble B309  
Office Hours: M & W  
1:00-3:00  
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Description and goals: This course studies the implications of moral theory for the determination of when war is morally permissible and of how war is to be conducted if it is to be waged in a morally acceptable way. We shall examine whether just war theory can offer acceptable guidance in making these determinations. We shall ask whether the provisions of international law governing warfare are morally acceptable, and whether various military actions would violate such provisions and rules. More specific questions to be studied will include the following: To what extent is military intervention justified when used to address humanitarian concerns, promote liberal or democratic values, protect economic interests, or head off potential threats? Can a meaningful distinction be drawn between combatants and noncombatants? Should a defense of superior orders shield military subordinates from accountability for illegal or immoral acts they commit in war?

Requirements:

(i) Class presentations and participation: The class will be divided into teams of 2; the makeup of the teams will vary throughout the semester. Each class a different team will give a class presentation summarizing the positions put forth in the readings. Each team is to e-mail to the other members of the seminar by 5:00 of the day before the team's presentation a 6-7 page summary of the readings for which it is responsible. The summaries should avoid quotation and paraphrase, and they should consist of complete sentences and paragraphs, not schematic outlines. Both members of the two-person summary/presentation teams should work on the written summary, and both should take part in the class presentation. In writing the summary, each person should carefully review the part of the summary drafted by the other member of the team. This review should check for the accuracy and completeness of the summary, as well as for clarity and grammar. You should work together on all of the written summary; you should not work in isolation on parts of it. Each member of a summary/presentation team will receive the same grade; this grade will be based solely on the written paper. Each student will be a member of 3 or 4 different teams during the semester.

Extensive class participation is expected of all students. You are allowed three absences (including what would be considered excused absences). You should not take the course if you expect to miss more than three classes.

Note: The above absence policy is subject to change should there be an outbreak of flu or should there be some other emergency. See below for more.

(ii) Papers: 2 critical analysis papers. The purpose of these papers is to evaluate the acceptability of various principles that have been suggested concerning when war can be undertaken and how it can be waged. Each of the two papers should be around 1800 words long. The first paper is due on October 5; the second paper is due on December 5.

Grades: The summary/presentation papers are worth a total of 25% of the grade for the course; class participation is worth 15%; and each of the two critical analysis papers is worth 30%.

I reserve the right to lower the grade for the course for absences beyond the 3 allowed. This adjustment would be made after the grade for the course had been computed using the percentages given in the preceding paragraph.

Readings: The following books have been ordered: Charles Beitz et al., International Ethics; Paul Christopher, The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction to Legal and Moral Issues (3rd edition); Richard Norman, Ethics, Killing and War; and Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations (4th edition). There are additional readings on Blackboard (blackboard.wfu.edu).

The articles and chapters that are referred to in the course plan below are to be read in full, even those that contain pages to be skimmed. For example, on September 23 you should read all of Luban's "Preventive War"; the summary/presentation paper will cover only pp. 214-236.

Computers: You are not allowed to use computers in class. You should bring a printed copy of the articles on Blackboard to class.

Flu and other Emergencies: In the event of an emergency such as a pandemic crisis or a natural (or man-made) disaster that prevents classes from meeting regularly, students will be expected to continue their coursework to the best of their ability. If Wake Forest should close, Blackboard will be the main source of information for the course. I will be available via e-mail and U.S. mail. In the event that Internet access is limited and U.S. mail is the only method for contact, you will be provided with complete access information for me at home, including my phone number. The syllabus may be adjusted for individuals who were absent, or for the entire class if dismissed by closing.

If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms (H1N1 is distinguished by a fever of 100° F or higher, and may also include cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body ache, headache, chills, unusual fatigue, diarrhea or vomiting), you should remain in your room in an effort to avoid spreading your illness to others (CDC guideline is at least 24 hours after the fever is gone), and call Student Health (758-5218) immediately. Be prepared to show evidence of a

legitimate reason for your absence from class. As soon as you can, contact your instructor to work out a plan to complete any missed work.

### Course Plan

AUG 26: Introduction

AUG 31: Introduction to Just War Theory: Christopher, ch. 6; Norman, pp. 117-120

SEP 2: Jus ad bellum: Aggression: Walzer, ch. 4

SEP 7: Jus ad bellum: Anticipation: Walzer, ch. 5

SEP 9: Jus ad bellum: Intervention: Walzer, ch. 6

SEP 14: Jus ad bellum: Intervention: Walzer, preface to the third edition of Just and Unjust Wars (Blackboard); Walzer, preface to the fourth edition of Just and Unjust Wars; Christopher, ch. 15

SEP 16: Jus ad bellum: Intervention: Luban, "Just War and Human Rights," in Beitz

SEP 21: Jus ad bellum: Intervention: Walzer, "The Moral Standing of States: A Response to Four Critics," in Beitz; Luban, "The Romance of the Nation-State," in Beitz

SEP 23: Jus ad bellum: Anticipation: Luban, "Preventive War" (pp. 214-236; skim 207-214 and 236-248) (Blackboard)

SEP 28: Jus ad bellum: Aims of War: Walzer, ch. 7

SEP 30: Jus post bellum: Bass: "Jus Post Bellum" (Blackboard)

OCT 5: Jus in bello: Introduction: Walzer, chs. 8 and 14

OCT 7: Jus in bello: Killing the Innocent: Walzer, chs. 9 and 10

OCT 12: Jus in bello: Military Necessity: Walzer, chs. 15 and 16, and pp. 323-327

OCT 14: Jus in bello: Military Necessity: Christopher, ch. 9

OCT 19: Jus in bello: Reprisals: Walzer, ch. 13; Christopher, ch. 10

OCT 21: Responsibility for war crimes: Christopher, chs. 8 and 14

OCT 26: Terrorism: Fullinwider, "Terrorism, Innocence, and War" (Blackboard)

OCT 28: Terrorism: Ignatieff, "Human Rights, the Laws of War, and Terrorism" (Blackboard)

NOV 2: Luban, "Liberalism, Torture, and the Ticking Bomb" (Blackboard)

NOV 4: Norman: ch. 2 ("The Wrongness of Killing") (pp. 36-72); skim pp. 9-14 of ch. 1 ("Moral Thinking")

NOV 9: Norman: ch. 3 ("Killing and Letting Die") (pp. 73-98)

NOV 11: Norman: ch. 4 ("Killing in Self-Defence") (pp. 120-139; review pp. 117-120)

NOV 16: Norman: ch. 4 ("Killing in Self-Defence") (pp. 139-158)

NOV 18: Norman: ch. 5 ("Killing the Innocent") (pp. 159-173); Mavrodes, "Conventions and the Morality of War," in Beitz

NOV 23: Fullinwider, "War and Innocence," in Beitz; Alexander, "Self-Defense and the Killing of Noncombatants: A Reply to Fullinwider," in Beitz

NOV 30: Norman: ch. 5 ("Killing the Innocent") (pp. 174-200; skim 200-206); Nagel, "War and Massacre," in Beitz

DEC 2: Norman: ch. 6 ("Having no Choice") (pp. 207-222 and 237-253); Walzer, afterword to Just and Unjust Wars