Module Learning Aims:

As the third millennium begins, many of the most important moral problems facing the human race transcend national boundaries. Climate change, terrorism, migration, pandemics, human rights, humanitarian intervention—all raise questions that are difficult to answer in a purely national context. For this reason, the concerned moral agent increasingly needs to take on a global perspective.

Politics, in the words of the political scientist Harold Lasswell, is all about who gets what, when, and how. In that sense, all of these global problems are deeply political. Either they concern questions of who is entitled to what (rights, opportunities, material goods) or else they involve figuring out what to do when someone’s entitlements are violated (through war or terrorism, for example). The moral principles that govern who gets what, when, and how are principles of justice. Addressing the moral problems of our day thus requires principles of global justice. These principles will be the focus of the module.

Module Content:

In this module, students will examine contemporary debates within political theory relating to global justice. Some of those debates address questions at a social level. What obligations does the First World have towards the Third? Other debates deal with questions of individual political obligation. If global poverty is unjust, how much money should I be giving to Oxfam? Each student will respond to each of these debates through a short response paper, then consider one of these debates in more detail by writing a seminar paper.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

-Distinguish between different types of questions relating to global justice.
Demonstrate understanding of some different approaches used to address those questions.

Apply this understanding to real-world problems of international relations.

Make and criticize arguments regarding how our international system ought to function, and what our obligations in that system ought to be.

**Recommended Reading List:**

The reading list for this module can be found in the class schedule below. There is one book assigned for this module, which should be on reserve at the Library. All other course readings will be assigned from political philosophy/theory journals, notably Philosophy and Public Affairs, and can be found online through the usual sources (JSTOR, etc.). If necessary, I shall post supplemental readings at the module’s Blackboard page.

Students should also make sure that they possess a good guide to grammar and style, as it will help them immensely with their writing. I recommend the following two works:


The following additional books might also prove of interest:


**Assessment:**

Students are expected to attend seminar each week and to participate in informed discussions of the readings. Participation will count for 20% of the grade.

Students are expected to submit short (approximately 250 words) papers in weeks 2-5 of the module on the readings for the week. These papers should be submitted through Turnitin. Each paper should make one (and only) one point about the readings. The point you make is up to you; you can attack one of the readings, defend it, relate two readings together, draw policy implications from the readings—you get the idea. Papers are due at 5 PM the day before the class in which the readings will be discussed. Each short paper counts for 5% of the grade.

Each student will also write a short seminar paper (10-15 pages). This paper will consist of a critical response to one or more of the papers in the following symposium:

As with the short weekly papers, the seminar paper must make a point in response to one or more papers in the symposium. A student may, with the instructor’s permission, select an original topic for the paper. The seminar paper will count for 60% of the course grade. All papers must be submitted through Turnitin.

**Course Website:**

The course has a page at Blackboard. Please make sure you are signed up for it.

**Plagiarism and Academic Standards:**

Students should be familiar with what plagiarism is, and avoid it like the plague. Plagiarism—defined by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one’s own work, without acknowledgement—is unacceptable under any circumstances. Students are referred to Part III, Section 1.32 of the College Calendar for advice on avoiding plagiarism, including through carelessness. The Calendar entry on plagiarism is at [http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar](http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism/calendar). Penalties will apply if these rules are violated.

Students should consult the University’s webpage on plagiarism, which can be found at [http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism](http://tcd-ie.libguides.com/plagiarism). All students must complete the online tutorial on avoiding plagiarism which can be found on this webpage. The tutorial will generate a coversheet, which should be attached to all written work submitted in the course.

It is essential that the source for your material is always clear to the reader. This does not apply only to direct quotes from a book or article; it applies to any point taken directly from something that you have read. Paraphrasing the work of others and presenting it without attribution as your own is unacceptable—a citation must be given. You should be sure that (i) direct quotes are always enclosed in quotation marks so that it is clear that you are not claiming to have written the phrases yourself; (ii) you always give the source of ideas and facts, including the precise page reference; and (iii) you cite your sources, not your source’s sources. In other words, if you read a book published in 2014 and it contains a quote from a book published in 1964, make it clear that you discovered the point in the 2014 book—don’t give the impression that you consulted the 1964 book and found the quote yourself.
Students must also ensure that academic work submitted for each module is “new work”, i.e., it has not been previously submitted for other modules at Trinity or elsewhere.

**Class Schedule:**

Please note that this schedule is subject to revision.

**Week 1 (Wednesday, 8 March): Module Introduction & Global Poverty**


**Week 2 (Wednesday, 15 March): Global Distributive Justice**


introduction Rawls and his critics, please consult the entire essay at http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/.

**Week 3 (Wednesday, 22 March): Just War Theory**


For an introduction to this topic, see http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war/.


**Week 4 (Wednesday, 29 March): The Ethics of War and Peace**

For further reading: http://bostonreview.net/forum/jeff-mcmahan-moral-responsibility-volunteer-soldiers

**Week 5 (Wednesday, 5 April): Human Rights and Obligations**


For an introduction to this topic, see http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rights-human/.

**Seminar Papers Due: Friday, 14 April**