

## Political Science 8015

### Global Justice

Hilary Term 2019 • Wednesday 9-11 • 3020 Arts Building

Instructor: Peter Stone

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## 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 perform two tasks. First, they will examine the research methods employed by political theorists to address topics such as global justice. These methods are distinct from the methods employed in empirical political research, although there is some similarity between them. Second, they will examine in detail one of the most influential works on global justice to be published in the past fifty years—John Rawls' *The Law of Peoples*.

## 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.

## Reading List:

I have assigned the following two books for this module:

Blau, Adrian, ed. *Methods in Analytical Political Theory*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Rawls, John. *The Law of Peoples*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999.

The following secondary source is also recommended:

Martin, Rex and Reidy, David, eds. *Rawls's Law of Peoples: A Realistic Utopia?* Oxford: Blackwell, 2006.

All of these books can be found on reserve at the Library.

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:

O'Conner, Patricia T. *Woe Is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. New York: Riverhead Books, 1996.

Strunk, Jr., William and White, E.B. *The Elements of Style*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Longman, 2000.

Students may find the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy a useful resource for political theory. Entries relevant to the module include the following:

- Global Justice: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-global/>
- Globalization: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/globalization/>
- International Justice: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/international-justice/>
- John Rawls: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/>.

## Assessment:

Students are expected to attend seminar each week and to participate in informed discussions of the readings. Participation will count for 10% 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 Blackboard. 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. Students may focus on one particular reading, or discuss multiple readings assigned for the week. 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, in either week 2 or week 4 of the module, give a short presentation on one of the papers assigned for the week from Adrian Blau's *Methods in Analytical Political Theory*. Each student should select one paper from the readings for either week 2 or week 4. Please note that you must inform me of your selection, which does not become official until I have approved it. No two students may present on the same paper. Students will select papers on a first come, first served basis. Students may, with my approval, swap papers if they so choose. The presentation will count for 10% of the grade.

Finally, each student will write a short seminar paper (approximately 2500 words, inclusive of everything—bibliography, etc.). This paper will consist of a longer and more developed version of one of the short papers written for the module. 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 Blackboard. Just go to the "Assessment" section—you should be able to see all the assignments listed there. You will need to upload your assignments as Word documents or the like. Please make certain that you understand the submission procedure; I will not be sympathetic to students who submit papers late due to "Blackboard troubles."

### 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. 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>. 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.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Readings</b>                           | <b>Due Dates</b>           |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| 22 January  | Blau, chapters 1-2<br>Rawls, introduction |                            |
| 28 January  |   | Short Paper #1 due @ 5 pm  |
| 29 January  | Blau, chapters 3-5<br>Rawls, chapter I    |                            |
| 4 February  |   | Short Paper #2 due @ 5 pm  |
| 5 February  | Blau, chapters 6-8<br>Rawls, chapter II   |                            |
| 11 February |   | Short Paper #3 due @ 5 pm  |
| 12 February | Blau, chapters 9-11<br>Rawls, chapter III |                            |
| 18 February |   | Short Paper #4 due @ 5 pm  |
| 19 February | Blau, chapters 12-14                      |                            |
| 28 February |   | Final Paper due @ 11:59 pm |