

Political Science 88374
Global Justice
Hilary Term 2026 • xxxxxxxxx • xxxxxxxxx

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DRAFT—Subject to Change

Module Learning Aims:

As the third millennium begins, many of humanity's most important moral problems transcend national boundaries. Climate change, terrorism, migration, pandemics, humanitarian intervention—all raise questions difficult to answer in a purely national context. For this reason, the concerned moral agent increasingly needs to adopt 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 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:

Students will begin the module by examining the research methods employed by political theorists. These methods are distinct from those employed in empirical political research, although there is some similarity between them. They will then investigate how these methods are used to address several debates involving global justice. Some of these debates address questions at a social level. What obligations does the Developed World have towards the Developing World? 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.

Reading List:

All module readings can be found online, either via TCD's Library, the module's Blackboard page, or some other source.

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*. 4th ed. New York: Longman, 2000.

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. Students will be assessed according to four criteria: 1) whether the paper makes a clear point; 2) whether the point is relevant to the module; 3) whether the paper makes an argument to support the point; and 4) whether the paper makes use of the module readings in making an argument. Each short paper counts for 5% of the grade.

Each student will give a short presentation on one of the assigned readings. Each student should select one reading. (No presentations will take place the first week, so please do not select a paper from that week.) 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 reading. Students will select readings on a first come, first served basis. Students may, with my approval, swap readings if they so choose. The presentation should take approximately 10-15 minutes, and lay out the main argument of the paper with appropriate comments/criticisms. It will count for 10% of the grade.

Finally, each student will write a short seminar paper (approximately 2500 words—this includes everything except the cover page and the bibliography). In this paper, the student will lay out and critique the argument made in a paper not assigned in the class. Each student may select any paper they wish, so long as it is 1) related to global justice and 2) published in a reputable academic journal. Please note that you must inform me of your selection, which does not become official until I have approved it. No two students may write on the same paper. Students will select papers on a first come, first served basis, and may change their selections (or swap with other students) subject to my approval. A student may, with the instructor's permission, write a different sort of paper (e.g., a literature review). The seminar paper will be due at 11:59 PM on Friday, xxxxxx, and count for 60% of the course grade. The seminar paper will be assessed according to the same criteria as the short papers.

All papers must be submitted through Blackboard. Just go to the "Assessment" xxxx 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." Late penalties will apply in the usual fashion (i.e., 5 points per day late,

unless the late submission is approved by me in advance). Also, please note that students can only submit each assignment on Blackboard once; resubmissions are not permitted.

Course Website:

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

Plagiarism and Academic Standards:

Plagiarism—defined by the University as the act of presenting the work of others as one’s own work, without acknowledgement—is always unacceptable. Penalties will apply if the university’s plagiarism rules are violated. Students should consult the university’s plagiarism webpage, which can be found at <https://libguides.tcd.ie/plagiarism>. All students must complete the online tutorial on plagiarism that can be found on this webpage. Students should then attach the following cover sheet to all written assignments in this module: https://www.tcd.ie/Political_Science/assets/word/Plagiarism%20cover%20sheet.docx.

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 TCD or elsewhere. You may reference work you have done elsewhere provided you cite it in the appropriate fashion; failure to do so constitutes self-plagiarism. Note that if you use material from one of your short papers in your final paper, that does **not** count as self-plagiarism.

Finally, a word about AI. The College Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Generative AI in Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research can be found here:

<https://www.tcd.ie/academicpractice/assets/pdf/college-statement-on-genai.pdf>

Especially relevant for this module is the following passage from this statement (p. 7): “From an academic integrity perspective, if a student generates content from a GenAI tool and submits it as his/her/their own work, it is considered plagiarism, which is defined as academic misconduct in accordance with College Academic Integrity Policy. If a sentence or quotation from GenAI content is used by a student in their academic work, it must be referenced.” Please remember this in preparing all assessments for this module.

Class Schedule:

Please note that this schedule is subject to revision.

Date	Readings	Due Dates
xxxxx	Daniel C. Dennett, <i>Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking</i> (New York: Norton, 2013), Part I; Keith Dowding, <i>The Philosophy and Methods of Political Science</i> (London: Palgrave, 2016), ch. 9; James Johnson, “Models among the Political Theorists.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 58, no. 3 (July 2014): 547-560; Christian List and Laura Valentini, “The Methodology of Political Theory,” in <i>Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology</i> , eds. Herman Cappelen, Tamar Szabó Gendler, and John Hawthorne (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016).	
xxxxxx		Short Paper #1 due @ 5 pm
xxxxxx	Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality.” <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 1, no. 3 (Spring 1972): 229-243; Garrett Cullity, “International Aid and the Scope of Kindness.” <i>Ethics</i> 105, no. 1 (October 1994): 99-127; Paul Gombert, “The Fallacy of Philanthropy.” <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> 32, no. 1 (March	

	<p>2002): 29-66; Andrew Kuper and Peter Singer, "Debate: Global Poverty Relief." <i>Ethics & International Affairs</i> 16, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 107-128; Richard W. Miller, "Beneficence, Duty and Distance." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 32, no. 4 (Autumn 2004): 357-383.</p> <p>Optional: For an introduction to the topic, please see http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cosmopolitanism/ and http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/principle-beneficence/. You might also find the following useful: http://bostonreview.net/forum/peter-singer-logic-effective-altruism.</p>	
xxxxxx		Short Paper #2 due @ 5 pm
xxxxxx	<p>Charles R. Beitz, "Justice and International Relations." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 4, no. 4 (Summer 1975): 360-389; John Rawls, "The Law of Peoples." <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 20, no. 1. (Autumn, 1993): 36-68; Thomas Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 33, no. 2 (Spring 2005): 113-147; A.J. Julius, "Nagel's Atlas" <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 34, no. 2 (Spring 2006): 176-192; Joshua Cohen and Charles Sabel, "Extra Rempublicam Nulla Justitia?" <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 34, no. 2 (Spring 2006): 147-175; Andrea Sangiovanni. "Global Justice, Reciprocity, and the State." <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> 35, no. 1 (2007): 3-39.</p> <p>Optional: For short introductions to this topic, please see http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/international-justice/ and http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/#LawPeoLibForPol. For a more detailed introduction Rawls and his critics, please consult the entire essay at http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/rawls/.</p>	
xxxxxx		Short Paper #3 due @ 5 pm

xxxxxx	<p>Simon Caney, "Just Emissions." <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 40, no. 4 (2012): 255-300; Alexa Zellentin, "Compensation for Historical Emissions and Excused Ignorance." <i>Journal of Applied Philosophy</i> 32, no. 3 (August 2015): 258-274; Fergus Green and Eric Brandstedt, "Engaged Climate Ethics." <i>Journal of Political Philosophy</i> 29, no. 4 (2021): 539-563; William E. Scheuerman, "'Political Disobedience and the Climate Emergency.'" <i>Philosophy & Social Criticism</i> 48, no. 6 (2021): 791-812.</p> <p>Optional: See https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-climate/.</p>	
xxxxxx		Short Paper #4 due @ 5 pm
xxxxxx	<p>Robert A. Dahl, "Can International Organizations Be Democratic? A Skeptic's View," in <i>Democracy's Edges</i>, eds. Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordón (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999); Joshua Cohen and Charles Sabel, "Global Democracy?" <i>New York University Journal of International Law and Politics</i> 37, no. 4 (2005): 763–797; Robert E. Goodin, "Global Democracy: In the Beginning," <i>International Theory</i> 2, no. 2 (2010): 175–209; Laura Valentini, "Assessing the Global Order: Justice, Legitimacy, or Political Justice?" <i>Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy</i> 15, no. 5 (2012): 593–612; Laura Valentini, "No Global Demos, No Global Democracy? A Systematization and Critique." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 12, no. 4 (2014): 789-807.</p> <p>Optional: See https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/global-democracy/.</p>	
xxxxxx		Final Paper due @ 11:59 pm