

201203_Normative Issue-Foreign Policy_PHIL_6262_10

Syllabus
- Course Information

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Syllabus



COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Course: CRN 36916 PHILOSOPHY 6262.10 NORMATIVE ISSUES IN FOREIGN POLICY

Semester: FALL 2012

Time: TUESDAYS, 0610-0800 PM

Location: SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, ROOM 208

Professor: Robert Paul Churchill

Office:

Phillips Hall T-521

Department of Philosophy

Telephone: (O) 202-994-3351, (C) 703-909-8701

Email: rpchurch@gwu.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-6 and also by appointment

- Course Description

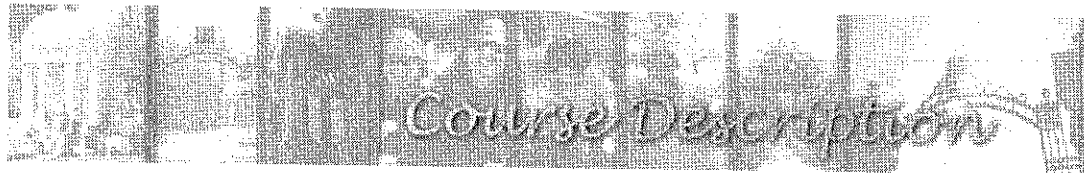
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Course Description



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

As the Bulletin states: Selected issues in foreign policy from a normative perspective, emphasizes on human rights, economic globalization, global poverty, sustainable development, and the ethics of military intervention.

This semester the seminar will focus on mass atrocities and serious human rights violations of many of the world's most vulnerable persons: Women and children in impoverished and war torn areas. Following a consideration of normative international theory and human rights, we will focus on a new international consensus on "the responsibility to protect" (R2P). Focusing on selected countries where violence is endemic (e.g. South Sudan, the Congo, Pakistan, Syria, and Mexico), we will consider who might have relevant responsibilities to protect persons from mass atrocities and suffering, how foreign policies might advance these responsibilities, and how these responsibilities might be implemented.

Organization:

All members of the seminar will share responsibility for interpretation and critical analysis of the readings, as well as for commentary at seminar meetings. From the outset, seminar members will take turns preparing and posting argument analyses of sections of the assigned readings. The argument analyses will be posted as files in Blackboard and available in advance. In addition, a member of the seminar will be a designated commentator to lead-off discussion of each argument analysis and each reading assignment. The first argument analysis, on the first assignment in Chris Brown's book is available as a model. Subsequent authors of argument analyses and commentators, or respondents, will be assigned following the first seminar meeting.

By the second month of the semester and having completed background readings on normative international theory and human rights, we will shift into a collaborative problem-solving and policy formulation mode. While argument analyses will still be presented and discussed, we convene as if we are the members of a government or United Nations committee to study mass atrocities as human rights violations, and to recommend policies to implement the responsibility to protect. Using the books by Garth Evans and Sally Engle Merry as initial guides, we will collaborate through a course wiki to conduct research, discuss and debate findings, formulate policy recommendations, and to critically evaluate them. Our objective will be to produce a collaborative report suitable for distribution to legislative, legal, or state and intergovernmental bodies, NGOs and activist groups, and think tanks.

Towards the end of the second month, if not sooner, each seminar member must identify a problem or topic for individual research. This problem or topic should be closely related to the focus of the collaborative project, but subsidiary to it in two ways: first, as an independent effort, and second, as comprising a special chapter, addendum, or appendix for the group-authored seminar report. For instance, the individual research project might have a theoretical focus, exploring or arguing for continuing changes in international political theory to accommodate the implementation of R2P, or alternatively, the independent project might explore a problem for policy analysis on which R2P has a significant impact, such as recommended changes of asylum or immigration policies to accommodate victims of rights abused, or development theories that target women and children. As yet another alternative, independent projects might investigate an issue in greater depth than it was treated in the group project, e.g. health care as a human right, the quality of humanitarian assistance, or the need for the protection of rights in another region, e.g. Niger, or the prospects for success of activist NGOs such as Enough!

The individual research project should result in a 20-25 page research paper to be submitted by Tuesday, December 18th.

For the class meetings of November 20 and 27, seminar members will be required to make oral presentations about their individual research projects and their findings at the seminar.

Please see Grading and Class Policies for further details.

COURSE PREREQUISITE(S):

This is a graduate seminar offered within the M.A. Program in Philosophy and Social Policy. It is open to all M.A. and Ph.D., and J.D. candidates in programs in philosophy, law, policy studies, international affairs, other

fields. Prior study of philosophy, while highly desirable is not required is **not** required. Far more important than the content of philosophical thought or theory are the methodologies of inquiry, analysis, and argumentation. The seminar also is open to Seniors in CCAS and the ESIA with prior approval.



Course Calendar

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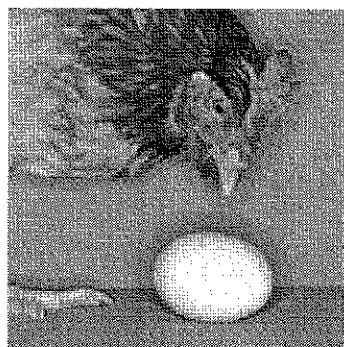
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Course Calendar

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COURSE CALENDAR:

Calendar of Assignments [Revised]:*

Note: Names of Presenters of Argument Analyses and Respondents will be added following 9/4

8/28: Session canceled and Program of Activities Rescheduled for 9/4

9/4: Introductions; Review of the objectives of the seminar and the plan of action.

The Westphalian State System: Foundations for Discourse about International Political Theory

Discussion of Brown's *Sovereignty, Rights and Justice*, 1-75 and first Argument Analysis.

Prepare: Read Brown, 1-75, and identify questions to raise during discussion. If you do not already do so, develop the habit of daily searching the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and other reliable on line sources about subjects relating to our seminar.

If convenient, bring your laptop to seminar meetings.

9/11: Post-World War II and Contemporary Challenges to the Westphalian System

Argument analysis, response, and discussion of Brown, 76-159

9/18: Global Inequality, Cultural Diversity, and International Social Justice

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Brown, 160-248

9/25: The Existence of Human Rights and Their Universality

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Churchill, *Human Rights and Global Diversity*, 1-88

10/2: Advancing Human Rights through Cross-Cultural Negotiations

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Churchill, 89-141; begin planning and discussion of the committee work research and preparing a report on *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect*

10/9: Mass Atrocities and the Responsibility to Protect

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Evans, *The Responsibility to Protect*, 11-76; focused discussion on regions selected by the committee for special emphasis; assignment of drafting responsibilities among seminar members

10/16: Putting the Responsibility to Protect in Action

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Evans, 79-148; focused discussion on evidence relating to efforts to date to "operationalize" the responsibility to protect; continued work on course wiki

Students must arrange an appointment with me between 10/9 and 10/30 to review their research paper plans.

10/23: Mobilizing Political Will and Building the Capacity to Protect

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Evans, 148-241; focused discussion of major difficulties impeding efforts to "do the right thing"; continue work on course wiki

10/30: The Culture of Human Rights, Gender Violence, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Merry, *Human Rights and Gender Violence*, 1-70; focused discussion on the relevance of cultural diversity versus the human rights of women; continued work on course wiki; continued research on semester paper

11/6: [Election Day]--Translating Human Rights Norms into Local Justice

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Merry, 72-133; continue work on course wiki; continue research and drafting of semester paper; we will take breaks for updates on election results

Critical assessment of progress to date on the course wiki: between 11/4 and 11/12 each seminar member must contribute an assessment of group progress and make recommendations for moving forward; continue research and drafting of individual seminar paper

11/13: On Possibilities for Cultural Transplants and Human Rights Consciousness

Argument Analysis, response, and discussion of Merry, 134-231; continue work on course wiki; continue research and drafting of independent seminar paper

11/20: Oral Reports on Independent Research Projects

The entire seminar session will be devoted to hearing reports about independent research projects and discussing them. Presenters should: (1) clarify the problem or issue they are investigating, (2) indicate the significance of this problem or issue, (3) relay hypotheses or conjectures subjected to testing, (4) identify difficulties encountered, (5) indicate results to date, (6) relate relevance for the committee project

11/27: Oral Reports on Independent Research Projects

As at the previous session, the entire session will be devoted to reports on the individual research projects; begin making final additions, corrections, and editorial recommendations for *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect*

12/4: Implementing the Responsibility to Protect: Policy Recommendations

Finalizing the Seminar's Committee Report; preparing for distribution; concluding discussions of independent research projects and their relationship with the Committee Report

12/11: Celebratory Dinner

Members of the seminar will meet at the regular time and leave for a celebratory dinner hosted by the Seminar Director

12/18: Individual Research Papers Submitted Via Electronic Attachment

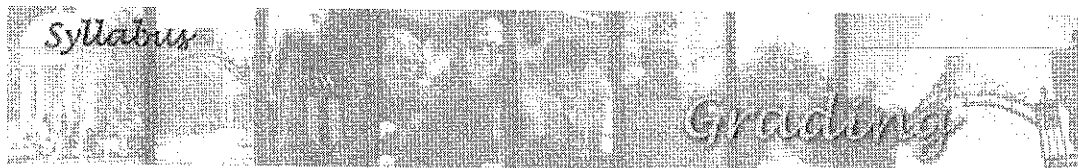
Completed individual research papers are due no later than 8:00 pm, and should be submitted in Word and as email attachments to rpchurch@gwu.edu

- Grading

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Grading



GRADING:

- ARGUMENT ANALYSIS (10%) Each seminar member will present a critical analysis of a section of the assigned readings on a scheduled date, respond to questions posed by the Respondent and participate in discussion of the assigned reading and related issues.
- RESPONDENT and GENERAL PARTICIPATION (10%) Evidence of effort, preparation, and seriousness of purpose as a Respondent; willingness and demonstrated interest in participating generally, evidence of preparation and reflection, and ability to advance the discussion
- ORAL REPORT (10%) Oral presentation to the seminar on your research project, problems or issues, and expected results
- CONTRIBUTIONS TO GROUP PROJECT (30%) Quality, extent, and consistency of contributions to the group project and the seminar report in terms of: reports on relevant sources in print or online, submission of draft text, commentary on draft materials, timeliness and helpfulness of recommended revisions, in-person or online interviews, editorial work, etc.
- RESEARCH PROJECT (40%) A written research project of 20-25 pages or more based on individual research, and (1) with approval of and in consultation with the seminar director, and (2) as related in a significant way with the seminar project on R2P.



Grading

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GRADING:

- CRITICAL ANALYSIS (10%) Each seminar member will present a critical analysis of a section of the assigned readings on a scheduled date and lead discussion of the assignment
- GENERAL PARTICIPATION (10%) Willingness to participate, demonstrated interest, evidence of preparation and reflection, and ability to advance the discussion
- ORAL REPORT (20%) Oral presentation to the seminar on your research project, problems or issues, and expected results
- CRITICAL COMMENTARY (10%) Written commentary on the draft of one other seminar member's research project
- RESEARCH PROJECT (50%) A written research project of 20 pages or more based on individual research, and (1) in consultation with members of one's sub-committee or the committee as a whole (the seminar group), with the benefit of critical commentary on the draft by another committee member.

- Learning Outcomes

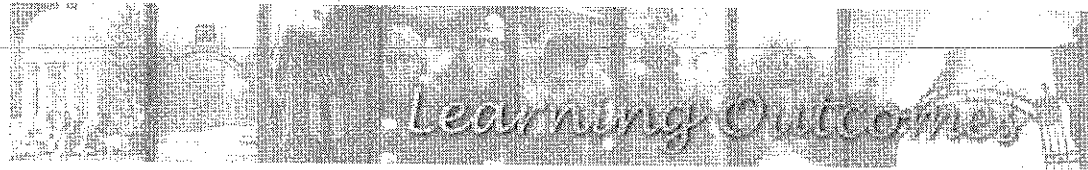
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Learning Outcomes



LEARNING OUTCOMES:

As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and appreciation the contributions of philosophy to the formation of defensible foreign policy
2. Analyze and assess foreign policy options using normative frameworks
3. Address issues pertaining to violations of human rights and responsibilities to protect
4. Conduct independent research on a major issue relating to the responsibility to protect, the prevention of gender violence, or the human rights of women
5. Work cooperatively to complete a major research project that significantly combines foreign policy issues with the analytical, conceptual, and normative tools of philosophy
6. Orally present and defend policy recommendations