

# PHILOSOPHY 340: THE MORALITY OF WAR AND PEACE

## SYLLABUS - SPRING 2014

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### GENERAL CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Prerequisite: Completion of General Education requirement in Foundations of Learning II. C., Humanities. Historical and contemporary arguments regarding morality of war, pacifism, and terrorism, with contemporary applications.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is entirely online. There are no in-person class meetings, though there are still specific due dates for assignments and exams. As a result, students will have to take responsibility for the pace at which they complete the coursework. In this course students will learn about some of the difficult moral problems created by the phenomenon of war. At the end of the course students should be able to examine current and past situations of armed conflict, determine which moral issues they involve, and come to an informed and well-reasoned conclusion about the moral rightness or wrongness of the actions of the various parties, as well as the morally best course of action to be taken in the future. Students who complete the course will learn how to carefully and systematically pursue answers to these and other questions:

- When, if ever, is war justified?
- Who is entitled to decide whether a nation should go to war?
- Is a terrorist attack an act of war?
- What weaponry, if any, should be forbidden in war?
- To what lengths must the military go to avoid harming civilians?
- What are some of the moral problems that arise for soldiers who must be trained to kill?
- What moral problems for society arise from maintaining a full-time military institution?
- Does it even make sense to talk about morality in the context of war, or does war suspend all rules?

Quizzes, exams and discussion forums will be designed to allow students to demonstrate a comprehension of general moral theory, the ability to distinguish the different moral issues that arise in war, an understanding of the various arguments for opposing positions on these issues, and the ability to apply rigorous moral reasoning to complex situations of conflict.

### COURSE TEXTS

1. **Text:** Coppiters and Fotion, *Moral Constraints on War*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Lexington Books, 2008);

2. **Blackboard:** The home base for the course will be the Blackboard page which includes information about the course, guided learning modules, additional readings, assessments, and opportunities to interact with other students and the instructor.

## PREPARATION FOR AN ONLINE COURSE

The **minimum requirements** for taking the online course are the following:

1. **A computer (with speakers):** laptop or desktop. While some of the material has been recorded for consumption over iPad or iPhone, *I cannot be responsible for problems viewing material or completing elements of the course this way.* I recommend that you **do not** use these devices and instead stick to a laptop or desktop computer.
2. **A stable internet connection:** Blackboard and the University advise using a wired connection.
3. **All necessary software, including the latest versions of Adobe's Acrobat Reader, Flash Player, and VLC.**
4. **Mozilla's Firefox or Google's Chrome Browsers.** Explorer does not work well with Blackboard.
5. **Responsibility for technical problems:** You must be prepared to address technical problems before they arise and when they arise. The instructors cannot manage this for you as he's simply too busy and not enough of a tech expert to do it. Please play it safe and make sure you are in a technically adequate position. Please do attempt to fix any technical problems via anticipation, preparation, and seeking appropriate help before going to the instructor.

Many more students fail online courses than on-campus courses. An online course requires more discipline, more responsibility, and more motivation. If you learn well on your own, the online format may be a good fit for you. If you depend on the instructor to answer many questions, or you need class discussion to help you figure things out, this may not be the format for you.

Be aware that **February 3 is the last day to drop this course.** If you stop doing the work, and haven't dropped the course by September 8, you will have a permanent F on your record.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The course is divided into three **units**, each about five weeks long. Each unit has three to five **modules**. We will work our way through all the modules in order. Each module contains reading assignments and lectures that you can view on your computer. Some modules also have discussion forums that you are required to participate in, some have texts that you are required to read, and some have videos that you are required to watch. Most modules have a very brief quiz at the end covering the material in that module (and sometimes the previous one if there was no quiz in that one), and each unit has a longer exam at the end, covering the material in that unit. To do this course you just need to go into the next module and perform the tasks in the specified order.

Although you are free to schedule your coursework as you wish, we will try to maintain a uniform pace. *There will be strict deadlines for completing quizzes and exams. **Quizzes and exams will be available only on the days they are due.*** Journal entries are due by a specific date, but can be completed at any point before that deadline.

**Units and Modules.** The course has three **units**, each of which contains multiple **modules**.

1. The first unit will be devoted to providing a basic background in ethical theory.
2. The second unit will apply this knowledge to common problems in war, with particular attention to the tradition known as Just War Theory, which is the basis for most of international law dealing with war.
3. The third unit will be concerned with vexing ethical problems of modern warfare, including robotic weaponry, terrorism and the idea of a global war on terrorism, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The course concludes with a look at arguments for and against pacifism. See the **Course Schedule** section below for details.

## GRADING

1. **There is a total of 200 points available in the course.**
2. **There are 10 quizzes**, each worth 5 points. Only the highest eight scores will count. The quizzes are 20% of your grade. All the quiz questions are true-false.
3. **There will be seven journal entries**, each worth 4 points. Only the highest five scores will count. The journal entries are 10% of your grade.
4. **There are three end-of-unit exams**, each worth 30 points. The exams are 45% of your grade. Exams contain true-false, multiple-choice, and a short essay.
5. **There is a comprehensive final exam**, worth 50 points. That's 25% of your grade. The format of the final will be similar to the exams.

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	186-200	C	130-139
A-	180-185	C-	120-129
B+	170-179	D+	110-119
B	160-169	D	100-109
B-	150-159	D-	90-99
C+	140-149	F	0-89

***THIS SCALE MAY BE ADJUSTED SLIGHTLY AFTER FINAL EXAMS HAVE BEEN GRADED.***

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENTS

**Exams will have time limits** (90 minutes for exams, two hours for the final), and you will be required to complete them in one sitting. That means that when you start an exam, you must finish in the time allowed. Be sure to submit your test before the time limit.

Quizzes will not have a time limit, but they must be completed in a single sitting. A quiz cannot be closed once it is opened. Once you submit an answer it cannot be changed. **Please be cautious when opening them, I will not be "reset" quizzes if you open them by mistake.**

Quizzes and exams will be available for two days all day (48 hrs.), from midnight the first day until 11:59 pm the second day. **It doesn't matter what your work schedule is; you will have time to take every exam and quiz.**

The day of each exam and quiz is given in this syllabus and the instructions in each module. **There is NO EXCUSE for missing an exam or quiz because you forgot what day it was on.** You will not be allowed to make up a quiz or exam because you forgot.

***I repeat: You already know the exact day of each exam and quiz in this course. Please put these dates in your calendar NOW.***

**There are also deadlines for the journal entries.** They are also given below and in the modules where they occur. **You may complete these journals at any point BEFORE the deadline. I urge you NOT to wait until the last minute to complete these.**

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is defined as the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the university as one's own work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source.

### **Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:**

1. submitting work, either in part or in whole, completed by another;
2. omitting footnotes for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions that belong to another;
3. omitting quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, sentence, or part thereof;
4. close and lengthy paraphrasing of the writings of another;
5. submitting as one's own work papers purchased from research companies.

Since you will be taking exams online, you may be tempted to copy and paste from a website or text instead of writing your own answer. This is strictly prohibited, as is extensive paraphrasing or copying and then changing a few of the words. You are not permitted to visit any other websites while taking an exam, including the website for this course. The penalty for plagiarism is quite severe, ranging from 0 points on an exam to an F for the course.

You are ultimately beholden to the University's code of conduct, definitions, and consequences outlined here: <http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/cheating-plagiarism.html>. But much more importantly, from my perspective, is that you do your own work honestly and with earnest effort because anything else is a waste of our time. Think about the kind of person you want to be and then act accordingly.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Here is a schematic breakdown of the course. **Graded tasks are in red.** *Quizzes will appear at the top of the relevant module during the times scheduled. Exams will appear at the top of the relevant Unit during the times scheduled.*

Module	Module Structure	Due Dates
<b>Unit 1: Ethical Theory</b>		
Module 1: Ethical Non-Objectivity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 1</li> <li>2. Reading: James Anderson, "Is Everyone Entitled to Their Opinion?"</li> <li>3. Video: Sniper Bating</li> <li>4. <b>Journal Entry 1</b></li> <li>5. Reading: Introduction to Philosophical Thinking</li> <li>6. Lecture 1: Subjectivism vs. Objectivism</li> <li>7. Lecture 2: Arguments Against Subjectivism</li> <li>8. Lecture 3: Arguments Against Relativism</li> <li>9. <b>Journal Entry 2</b></li> <li>10. Lecture 4: Reservations about Moral Objectivity</li> </ol>	<b>Journal Entry 1: 1/26</b> <b>Journal Entry 2: 2/6</b> <b>Quiz 1: 2/5 - 2/6</b>
Module 2: Consequentialism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 2</li> <li>2. Lecture 5: Egoism</li> <li>3. Lectures 6 &amp; 7: Utilitarianism</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 2: 2/12 - 2/13</b>
Module 3: Non-Consequentialism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 3</li> <li>2. Lecture 8: Divine Command and Natural Law</li> <li>3. Lectures 9 - 11: Kantianism</li> <li>4. Lecture 12: Social Contract Theory</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 3: 2/19 - 2/20</b>
<b>EXAM 1: AVAILABLE 2/26 12:00 AM - 2/27 11:59 PM (48 HOURS)</b>		
<b>Unit 2: Just War Theory</b>		
Module 4: Realism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 4</li> <li>2. Reading: David Hume</li> <li>3. Reading: Carl von Clausewitz</li> <li>4. Reading: Textbook, Introduction, Realism, pp. 1-5</li> <li>5. Lecture 13: Realism</li> </ol>	
Module 5: Militarism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 5</li> <li>2. Reading: Friedrich Nietzsche</li> <li>3. Reading: William James</li> <li>4. Reading: William Shakespeare</li> <li>5. Reading: Textbook, Introduction, Militarism, pp. 5-7</li> <li>6. Video: Scene from Henry V</li> <li>7. Lecture 14: Militarism</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 4: 3/5 - 3/6</b>

Module	Module Structure	Due Dates
Module 6: Jus ad bellum	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 6</li> <li>2. Reading: Textbook, Rest of introduction, <i>all</i> of Part 1 (pp. 10-154)</li> <li>3. Lecture 15: Just Cause</li> <li>4. Lecture 16: Legitimate Authority, Right Intentions, Proportionality</li> <li>5. Lecture 17: Last Resort and Likelihood of Success</li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 5: 3/12 - 3/13</b>
Module 7: Jus in bello	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 7</li> <li>2. Videos: Endersee and Dambusters</li> <li>3. Reading: Textbook, All of Part II: Jus in Bello (pp. 155-194)</li> <li>4. Reading: Aaron Fichtelberg, "Applying the Rules of Just War Theory to Engineers in the Arms Industry"</li> <li>5. Lecture 18: Discrimination</li> <li>6. Lecture 19: Proportionality and Double Effect</li> <li>7. <b>Journal Entry 3</b></li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 6: 3/19 - 3/20</b> <b>Journal Entry 3: 3/20</b>
Module 8: Humanitarian Intervention	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 8</li> <li>2. Reading: Textbook, Part III Chs. 9, 10, &amp; 11 (pp. 195 - 259)</li> <li>3. Reading: Jeffrey P. Whitman, "An End to Sovereignty?"</li> <li>4. Reading: Jovana Davidovic, "Are Humanitarian Military Interventions Obligatory?"</li> <li>5. Lecture 20: Humanitarian Intervention</li> <li>6. Lecture 21: Kosovo</li> <li>7. <b>Journal Entry 4</b></li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 7: 3/24 - 3/25</b> <b>Journal Entry 4: 3/27</b>
<b>EXAM 2: AVAILABLE 3/26 12:00 AM - 3/27 11:59 PM (48 HOURS)</b>		
<b>Unit 3: Modern Warfare</b>		
Module 9: Remote Weaponry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 9</li> <li>2. Videos: UAVs</li> <li>3. Reading: Suzy Killmister, "Remote Weaponry: The Ethical Implications"</li> <li>4. Optional Reading: "Living Under Drones: Death, Injury, and Trauma to Civilians from US Drone Practices in Pakistan"</li> <li>5. Lecture 22: Remote Weaponry</li> <li>6. Lecture 23: Drone Warfare in the Obama Administration</li> <li>7. <b>Journal Entry 5</b></li> </ol>	<b>Quiz 8: 4/9 - 4/10</b> <b>Journal Entry 5: 4/10</b>
Module 10: Terrorism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 10</li> <li>2. Reading: Osama Bin Laden, "Letter to America"</li> <li>3. Reading: The National Security Strategy of the United States of America (2002)</li> <li>4. Textbook, Ch. 12 (pp. 261-277)</li> <li>5. Lecture 24: Terrorism</li> </ol>	

Module	Module Structure	Due Dates
Module 11: The War on Terrorism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 11</li> <li>2. Videos: The US Invasion of Iraq</li> <li>3. Reading: Neta C. Crawford, "Just War Theory and the US Counterterror War"</li> <li>4. Lecture 25: The War on Terrorism</li> <li>5. Lecture 26: Crawford</li> <li>6. Journal Entry 6</li> </ol>	<p><b>Quiz 9: 4/23 - 4/24</b>  <b>Journal Entry 6: 4/24</b></p>
Module 12: Pacifism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction to Module 12</li> <li>2. Video: All Quiet on the Western Front</li> <li>3. Reading: Jan Narveson, "Pacifism: A Philosophical Analysis"</li> <li>4. Reading: Andrew Alexandra, "Political Pacifism"</li> <li>5. Reading: Soran Reader, "Making Pacifism Plausible"</li> <li>6. Lecture 27: Narveson</li> <li>7. Lecture 28: Alexandra</li> <li>8. Lecture 29: Reader</li> <li>9. Journal Entry 7</li> </ol>	<p><b>Quiz 10: 4/30 - 5/1</b>  <b>Journal Entry 7: 5/1</b></p>
<b>EXAM 3: AVAILABLE 5/4 12:00 AM - 5/5 11:59 PM (48 HOURS)</b>		
<b>COMPREHENSIVE FINAL EXAM :</b> <b>AVAILABLE 5/13 12:00 AM - 5/14 11:59 PM (48 HOURS)</b> <b>STUDY GUIDE AVAILABLE 5/5/15</b>		

### CONTACTING THE INSTRUCTOR AND OFFICE HOURS

I will not be holding regular office hours, but am easily available by appointment. Simply send me an email about meeting in person and I will set up a time to meet with you at my office (AL 429) or via skype. In general, **I do not answer emails asking questions that are easily answered by reading the syllabus or accessing the course webpage.** Please do not take this personally, I am very busy and I expect you to take some responsibility and look for answers to your questions before consulting me.

### DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

**Please let me know about your specific documented accommodations as soon as possible so that I can make the necessary modifications to the course.**

## RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

The University Policy File includes the following statement on Absence for Religious Observances:

**By the end of the second week of classes**, students should notify the instructors of affected courses of planned absences for religious observances. Instructors shall reasonably accommodate students who notify them in advance of planned absences for religious observances.

California Education Code 89320 states:

The Trustees of the California State University shall require each state university, in administering any test or examination, to permit any student who is eligible to undergo the test or examination to do so, without penalty, at a time when that activity would not violate the student's religious creed.

Please notify me **within the first two weeks** if you plan to be absent for religious observance.