DESCRIPTION

How to approach the study of ethics in the world today? This is not easy task given the world that we live in today. This course is designed as a focused introduction to various theories and approaches to the study of ethics in world politics. The course thus seeks to explicate key theoretical assumptions, arguments, and methodologies underpinning these approaches as well as exploring just how and to what extent they are useful/successful in helping us grapple with the very difficult issue of ethics in a world that is very divided and extremely diverse on almost any aspect of human collective and individual lives. Although the course is quite comprehensive in its coverage of the variety of schools of IR no single course can ever be comprehensive enough in its scope. Yet despite the large number of approaches that seek to understand ethics in world politics, there are many overlaps that will enable us to at least attempt more or less acquire an integrated understanding of the important questions and tentative answers thereto. Because the study of ethics has more or less been quite neglected in the study of IR there is ample room for genuinely innovative work in this area of IR knowledge and many scholars are precisely engaging themselves in such very productive endeavors. The purpose of the course is therefore to equip students with enough knowledge on the issue of ethics in world politics so as to enable them to both learn and critique theories of/approaches to ethics broadly defined as well as to form their own educated views and perspectives on the issues of ethics in world politics. By the end of the semester each student should be able and is expected to produce a research paper reviewing and critiquing one approach to ethics as it applies to world politics broadly defined (and not just in the sense of inter-state or international relations). A well crafted paper should be of a publishable quality and hence all students will be encouraged to send their respective research papers for consideration at various publishing outlets.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Students are required to read and think (if possibly collectively in small groups) about the weekly readings before each class and thus come to class prepared to fully discuss/critique/build on the readings in depth and share their insights with the class.
• Each student is required to formulate two discussion questions generated by the readings each week. These questions should be handed to the instructor at the beginning of each class.
• Each student is required to write ten 3-page summary papers over the course of the semester. The essays are to handed to the instructor at the beginning of class.
• Each student is required to make a number of 15-minute presentations (depending on the number of students) and lead the subsequent discussions on the topics addressed in one of his/her weekly summary/critique papers. The student making the presentation should email his/her paper to the instructor on Monday 1:00-5:00pm. The instructor will then forward the paper to the rest of the students who are expected to read it before class and be prepared to raise issues from it in the class discussion ensuing from the presentation.
• A major component of the course evaluation will be a term research paper. Each student will produce a manuscript of high and publishable quality as explained in the introduction up above. Instructions for the paper will be explicated on the first day of class. The paper will be due one week after the end of classes.
• The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus after the beginning of the semester if need be.

REQUIRED TEXTS

8. Other Readings posted on sakai (e-learning).

GRADING POLICY

• Submitting two questions every week: 14 sets of questions are required and together count for 5% of the final grade.
• Presenting paper(s) and leading the ensuing discussion: 15% of the final grade.
• Each weekly paper: 5% of the final grade. Thus: ten required papers \(\rightarrow\) 50% of the final grade.
• Research paper: 30% of the final grade.

Note: Late papers will not be accepted except under justifiable circumstances.
RULES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA


- There is a zero-percent tolerance on plagiarism.

- Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html
Weekly Reading Assignments and Outline of the Course

**Week 1 / January 11: Ethics in World Politics: Warming up!**


**Week 2 / January 18: Ethics and Realism**


**Week 3/January 25: Ethics and Marxism/Post-Marxism**


**Week 4/February 1: Ethics and Liberalism/Neo-liberalism**


**Week 5/February 8: Ethics and Cosmopolitanism**


**Week 6/ February 15: Ethics and Intervention/War/’Just War’ Theory**


**Week 7/ February 22: Ethics and the English School**


**Week 8/ March 1: Ethics and Constructivism**

March 5-12: SPRING BREAK

Week 9/ March 15: Ethics and Critical Theory


March 16-19: ISA CONVENTION

Week 10/ March 22: Ethics and Post-modernism/Post-Structuralism


Week 11/ March 29: Ethics and Feminism


**Week 12/ April 5: Ethics and Deconstruction**


**Week 13/ April 12: Ethics and Post-colonial Theory**


**Week 14/ April 19: Ethics and ‘Language Games’**