

Might and Right Among Nations

GOV 351J Unique 37290 / CTI 323 Unique 29170
Fall 2024

Class: T Th 11-12:30, WAG 201

Course Description

This course introduces students to major alternative approaches to the question of justice in international affairs. What is the place of ethical considerations in international politics? How should states adjudicate conflict? Can going to war ever be just? What principles should govern conduct in war? Is lasting peace possible, and if so what is needed to bring it about? We will examine the classical republican debates about security, power, and justice in Thucydides; the Aristotelian concept of natural right; the Christian teaching on natural law and its application in just war theory in St. Thomas and Vitoria; the roots of modern realist international relations theory in Hobbes; the relation between commerce and peace in Montesquieu; the case against cosmopolitanism or globalization in Rousseau, and the foundations of modern international law in Kant. Through these readings we will seek both to uncover the philosophic foundations of prevailing contemporary moral thought and to challenge our own moral assumptions by entering into dialogue with a range of contrasting perspectives on justice among nations and on justice altogether.

This course carries the Ethics flag. Ethics courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life and for reasoning well about moral questions that arise in public affairs. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving the application of ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

This course counts towards the Certificate Program in Core Texts and Ideas, a 6-course sequence in the great books, ideas, and controversies that have shaped the modern world. The program is open to students in all majors and colleges. For more information, visit <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/coretexts>.

Required Texts and Other Resources

The following books are available at the University Co-op and are ***required in the following editions***. As laptops are not allowed in class, you need to acquire print copies of the texts and bring them to every class.

Thucydides. *The Landmark Thucydides*, ed. Robert Strassler. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1998.

St. Thomas Aquinas. *On Law, Morality, and Politics*, ed. W. Baumgarth and R. Regan, 2nd edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003.

Francisco De Vitoria. *Political Writings*, ed. A. Pagden and J. Lawrence. Cambridge. 1991.

Thomas Hobbes. *On the Citizen*, ed. and trans. Richard Tuck and Michael Silverthorne. Cambridge.

Montesquieu. *The Spirit of the Laws*, trans. and ed. A. Cohler et al. Cambridge.

Immanuel Kant. *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*, trans. H. J. Paton. Harper Torchbooks.

Immanuel Kant. *Political Writings*, ed. H. Reiss. Cambridge.

The Jefferson Center will have a limited number of copies of each of these books available for loan to students with financial need. To borrow them please come to Professor Pangle's office hours.

Recommended Texts:

Walzer, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars*, Fifth edition. Basic Books.

Turabian, Kate, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Ninth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

Students writing essays for this course must have Microsoft Word and must submit all essays in .docx format.

Essay writing advice: <https://liberalarts.utexas.edu/government/faculty/lsp226>.

For help with essay writing come to office hours any time or visit the University Writing Center at <https://uwc.utexas.edu/>.

Teaching Modality

This course will be entirely in-person. Students are required to attend every class meeting with a print copy of the assigned text for that day in hand and with the reading completed. **All computers and cell phones are to be turned off and stowed away.** Taking notes is strongly recommended.

Class sessions will consist in lecture interspersed with discussion. You are encouraged to contribute actively and to help create a community of rigorous, probing, honest, and civil discourse. It is as important to listen carefully to one another as to the instructor. The purpose of speaking in class is not to demonstrate what you know but to practice formulating hypotheses, raising good questions, building on one another's ideas, and offering alternatives.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Check Canvas regularly for updates, essay prompts, and other messages.

August 27 Introduction

August 29 Thucydides 1.1-30

September 3 Thucydides 1.31-53

September 5 1.66-88, 1.96-102, 1.118-25, 1.139-46

September 10 Thucydides 2.1-23, 2.34-65

September 12 Thucydides 2.71-78, 3.1-6, 3.8-15, 3.26-28, 3.35-60

September 17 Thucydides 4.58-65, 4.78-88, 5.14-26, 5.84-116

September 19 Thucydides 6.1, 6.6-31, 6.53, 6.60-61, 6.72-93

September 24 Thucydides 7.1-18, 7.42-56, 7.69-87

September 26 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 5.1-7 (posted on Canvas)

September 28 (Saturday) optional first essay due at noon

October 1 test 1 for those who did not write essay 1(bring blue book)

October 3 Thomas Aquinas, pp. 10-24, 26-28, 42-55, 164-72

October 8 Thomas Aquinas, pp.173-75, 182-85, 188-95; Vitoria pp. 277-92

October 10 Vitoria, pp. 295-327

October 15 Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, author's preface and chapters 1-2 (pp. 7-42)

October 17 Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, chapters 3-5 (pp. 43-74)

October 22 Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, chapters 6 & 13 (pp. 75-90 & 142-52)

October 24 test 2 (bring blue book)

October 26 (Saturday) essay 2 due at noon for those who did not take test 2

October 29 Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, Preface; bks. 1-4 entire

October 31 Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, bk. 5 chs. 1-7; bk. 7 chs. 1-5 & 8-17; bk. 8 chs. 1-7 & 16-17; bk. 9 entire

November 5 Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, bk. 10 entire; bk. 11 chs. 1-8; bk. 12 chs. 1-4, 7, & 11-13

November 7 Montesquieu, *Spirit of the Laws*, bk. 13 chs. 1 &17; bk. 15, chs. 1-9; bk. 19 ch. 27; bk. 20 chs. 1-13; bk 21 chs. 14 &21; bk. 24 chs. 1-11 & 14; bk. 26 chs. 1 & 20-21

November 12 Rousseau, selection from *Considerations on the Government of Poland* (posted on Canvas)

November 14 Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, parts 1 and 2

November 19 Kant, *Groundwork*, continued; "Idea for a Universal History," pp. 41-53 in *Political Writings*

November 21 Kant, "Theory and Practice," parts 1 and 2 (pp. 61-87); *Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 132-36 in *Political Writings*

December 3 Kant, "Theory and Practice," part 3 (pp. 87-92); *Metaphysics of Morals* pp. 164-75 in *Political Writings*

December 5 Kant, "Perpetual Peace" (pp. 93-130) in *Political Writings*

December 12 (Th), 3:30 pm-5:30 pm, final exam: bring blue books

Grading Scheme and Policies

attendance and participation: 15%

Attendance is required. Two classes may be missed without penalty; after that each unexcused absence will result in a 10% reduction in your attendance and participation grade. In addition, extra credit will be available as follows:

perfect attendance: 5%

coming to Professor Pangle's office hours with a buddy and with 3 great questions you have worked out together in advance: 5%

making a speech at one of the Jefferson Center Braver Angels debates: 5%

quizzes: 15%

On 12 random days throughout the semester, reading quizzes will be given at the beginning of class. These may not be taken late or made up, but the lowest 2 quiz grades will be dropped.

test 1 or essay (1250 words): 20%

test 2 or essay (1250 words): 20%

In late September and again in late October you will have a choice between writing an essay and taking a test on the authors we have just covered. Both essay topics and potential test questions will be distributed in advance.

Essays will be graded for the quality of the writing as well as for their substantive content. They should be based on a careful reading of the texts, classroom discussion, and your own thinking. The use of artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT) in this class is strictly prohibited. This includes using AI to generate ideas, outline an approach, answer questions, solve problems, or create original language. Consulting other resources (e.g. Wikipedia, scholarly articles) is not required or expected but is fine as long as you cite what you use. All language you use from any source must be in quotation marks, and both language and ideas you take from any source, including texts assigned for this course, must be cited using footnotes or the author-date system. Essays will be checked for plagiarism using Turnitin software and other methods. If we suspect that the work you turn in is not entirely your own, we may ask you to come to office hours to explain and defend the thinking in your essay.

Late essays will be subject to a penalty of 3% + 2% for each calendar day they are late, unless you have a medical excuse or family emergency.

Tests will be closed book, closed notes.

December 12 final exam: 30%

The final exam is required of all students and will not be waived or re-scheduled to accommodate travel plans. Questions will be distributed in advance. The exam will be closed book, closed notes.

Plus and minus grades will be used, as follows: 93-100: A; 90-92: A-; 87-89: B+; 83-86: B; 80-82: B-; 77-79: C+; 73-76: C; 70-72: C-; 60-69: D; below 60: F.

Students who violate University rules on academic misconduct are subject to a failing grade in the course and to referral to the dean of students, with potential further consequences including a written warning, probation, deferred suspension or dismissal from the University. To learn more about academic integrity standards, tips for avoiding a potential academic misconduct violation, and the overall conduct process, please visit the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website at:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct>.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, <https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability>.

Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements. Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the professor and TAs for this course are required to report for further investigation any information concerning incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking committed by or against a UT student or employee. Federal law and university policy also requires reporting incidents of sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct (collectively known as Title IX incidents). This means we cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with us. If you need to talk with someone who can maintain confidentiality, please contact University Health Services (512-471-4955 or 512-475-6877) or the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center (512-471-3515 or 512-471-2255). We strongly urge you make use of these services for any needed support and that you report any Title IX incidents to the [Title IX Office](#).