

Might and Right Among Nations (Fall 2023)
GOV 351J (unique 38300) AND CTI 323 (unique 30050)
Canvas: <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1373023>

Lectures MWF 1-2 in RLP 0.112 except for Fridays of weeks featuring discussion sections

see CHOICE BELOW BETWEEN TWO WAYS OF TAKING COURSE (TO BE CHOSEN BY FRIDAY MIDNIGHT AUG. 25), and schedule of classes

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Office hours: TUES. 10 AM-1PM in my office, and by appt., including Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Beckett Rueda (beckett.rueda@utexas.edu)
Office hours: Wed./Fri., 3–4:30 in Batts 1.118; Zoom other times by appt.

"ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE RULES"¹ are in effect in this class: NO CELL PHONES, NO COMPUTERS OR ELECTRONIC DEVICES ACTIVE DURING CLASS (If you have a special need for one, consult with Prof. Pangle). FIRST OFFENSE, YOU LOSE CREDIT FOR THAT DAY'S ATTENDANCE; SECOND OFFENSE, YOU LOSE ALL TERM ATTENDANCE CREDIT. See handout, "Laptops are bad in class."

A seating chart to take attendance and for Covid contact tracing will be circulated in class Friday Aug. 25: the seat you choose that day will be yours for the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of major alternative approaches, elaborated by history's greatest political thinkers, to the question of the moral dimension of int'l relations.

The basic aim of the course is twofold: 1) to gain a better understanding of what kind of justice and law can exist among nations; and 2) to gain a better understanding of what justice itself means, in human relations, as its nature is

¹ <https://drafthouse.com/about>

revealed under the stress of the intensely competitive international arena, always overshadowed by the threat of war.

We will examine the original, foundational, philosophic arguments for: 1) the classical republican struggle for and against EMPIRE (Thucydides and Machiavelli); 2) Christian JUST WAR theory (Aquinas and Vitoria); 3) Islamic *Jihad* Theory (The *Koran* and *Hadith*, Shaybani, Ibn Khaldun); 4) independent and competitive national SOVEREIGNTY (Hobbes and Spinoza); 5) global moral community through COMMERCIALIZATION (Montesquieu and *The Federalist*); and 6) international and world government (Rousseau and Kant).

We will try to uncover the partially hidden, deep, philosophic foundations of our own contemporary ways of moral thinking, and will confront our deep moral assumptions through challenges from and dialogue with earlier, alien ways of conceiving justice among nations .

While we will not forget contemporary issues, we will try to transcend our passionate biases and view our own immediate situation from a liberating distance, by taking as our primary empirical focus the philosophic historian Thucydides' dramatic presentation of the Peloponnesian War—a moral as well as military struggle pitting the imperialism of one of history's greatest democracies (Athens) against the anti-imperialist alliance led by one of history's most conservative and pious aristocracies (Sparta).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND BASIS OF GRADING

This course uses a plus / minus grading system.

THERE ARE TWO OPTIONS, OR WAYS OF TAKING THIS COURSE—ONE OF WHICH YOU MUST CHOOSE, THROUGH a survey on CANVAS **before Friday Aug. 25, midnight.**

OPTION ONE—MID-TERM EXAM OPTION

40%—Final Exam, held in the final exam period; format will be questions selected at random from study questions handed out at the end of term covering material from the entire term.

30%—Mid-term exam, administered Fri. Oct. 13, on questions chosen at random from study questions handed out two weeks before.

- 10%—Attendance at all of each lecture; each absence after the second, not excused by a doctor's note, will subtract 1% up to a maximum of the 10% credit. FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE ON HEALTH GROUNDS, obtain a notification from [Student Emergency Services \(SES\)](#), which will collect confidential docs and confirm without revealing protected details.
- 15%—Answers to weekly quizzes on the readings (clues for which will be in the weekly study questions); quizzes available online from Thurs. afternoon until Sat. at 5pm (CST).
- 5%—Participation with good questions or comments in lectures.

OPTION TWO—PAPER and DISCUSSION SECTION OPTION

- 25%—Final Exam, held in the final exam period; format will be questions selected at random from study questions handed out at the end of term covering material from the entire term.
- 40%—Two short analytical/interpretative essays (each about 1200-1500 words) on topics to be assigned; due midnight Sunday Oct. 1 and Nov. 5, handed in to Canvas.
- 10%—Attendance at all of each lecture; each absence after the second, not excused by a doctor's note, will subtract 1% up to a maximum of the 10%. FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE ON HEALTH GROUNDS, obtain a notification from [Student Emergency Services \(SES\)](#). SES will collect confidential documentation and confirm without revealing protected details.
- 10%—Answers to weekly quizzes on the readings (clues for which will be in the weekly study questions), quizzes available online from Thurs. afternoon until Sat. at 5pm (CST).
- 15%—Attendance and participation in discussion sections, which will meet on the Fridays indicated in the schedule below.

REQUIRED TEXTS (be sure to get the correct editions and translations!)

- The Landmark Thucydides*, Simon & Schuster (Free Press), ISBN 0684827905 (The translation is not always accurate, and some key passages will be found accurately translated in the selections sent out by Canvas).
- Francisco de Vitoria, *Political Writings*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 052136714x

- Machiavelli, *Discourses on Livy*, University of Chicago Press, ISBN 978-0226500362
- Thomas Hobbes, *On the Citizen*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0521437806
- Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0521369746
- Immanuel Kant
 - Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Harper Perennial, ISBN 0061311596
 - Political Writings*, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0521398371
- Some re-translated key passages from Thucydides, and major excerpts from Thomas Aquinas, Spinoza, Rousseau, and *The Federalist* as well as readings on the theory of *jihad* will be sent out on Canvas.
- Recommended but not required: Thomas L. Pangle and Peter J. Ahrens Dorf, *Justice Among Nations: On the Moral Basis of Power and Peace* (University of Kansas Press, 1999). ISBN 978-0700612215

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, PAPERS, AND APPROXIMATE READING ASSIGNMENTS

Precise weekly readings and study questions will be emailed each Friday for the following week.

Aug. 21 (Mon.) introductory lecture

Aug. 23 (Wed.) - Sept. 22 (Fri.) lectures on THUCYDIDES, Bk. 1 (secs. 1-88, 118-25, 139-end), Bk. 2 (secs. 1-65), Bk. 3 (secs. 1-50)

Aug. 31 (Thurs.) First weekly reading quiz available online until Sat. at 5pm (CST).

Sept. 1 (Fri.) 1st discussion sections, no lecture

Sept. 15 (Fri.) 2nd discussion sections, no lecture

Sept. 25 (Mon.) - Oct. 2 (Mon.) lectures on excerpts from THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Theologiae* (text sent out by Canvas) and VITORIA, *Political Writings*, pp. 21-22 and 233-333

Sept. 29 (Fri.) 3rd discussion sections, no lecture

Oct. 1 (Sun. midnight) FIRST PAPER DUE (Hand in to Canvas)

Oct. 4 (Wed.) – Oct. 6 (Fri.) lectures on Islamic jihad theory in reading excerpts sent out online

Oct. 9 (Mon.) – Oct. 16 (Mon.) lectures on MACHIAVELLI'S *Discourses on Livy* Bk. 1, Pref. and chaps. 1-6, 9, 11-14, 16, 18, 30, 47-48, 50, 53-54; Bk. 2, chaps 1-2; Bk. 3, chap. 2

Oct. 13 (Fri) 4th discussion sections, no lecture

Oct. 13 (in class Fri.) MID-TERM EXAM: 50 minutes to write an essay in answer to one of study questions handed out previously (and chosen randomly at start of test time)

Oct. 18 (Wed.) – Oct. 25 (Wed.) lectures on HOBBS, *On the Citizen*, pp. 3-90, 142-52 (Dedication and Preface and chaps. 1-6 and 13); AND short excerpt from Spinoza's *Political Treatise*, chap. 3 (sent out on Canvas)

Oct. 27 (Fri.) – Nov. 1 (Wed.) lectures on MONTESQUIEU *Spirit of the Laws*, Preface and Books I-III entire; IV, chaps. 1-5; V chaps. 1-7; VII chaps. 1-5, 8-17; VIII chaps. 1-7, 16-17; IX-X entire; Bk. XI chs. 1-8; XII chs. 1-4 and 12-13; XV chs. 1-9 and 16; XIX ch. 27; XX chs. 1-13; XXI chs. 14 and 21; XXIV chs. 10-11; XXV chs. 9-12; XXVI chs. 1-9

Nov. 3 (Fri.) 5th discussion sections, no lecture

Nov. 5 (Sun. midnight) SECOND PAPER DUE (Hand in to Canvas)

Nov. 6 (Mon.) lecture on excerpts from ROUSSEAU, *Government of Poland* and "The State of War" (sent out on Canvas)

Nov. 8 (Wed.) - Dec. 4 (Mon.) lectures on KANT, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Introd. and Parts 1 and 2, and then *Political Writings*, 41-53, 61-175

Nov. 17 (Fri.) 6th discussion sections, no lecture

Nov. 20-25 Fall Break

Dec. 1 (Fri.) Last discussion sections, no lecture

—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. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

— If you are a student with a disability, or think you may have a disability, and need accommodations please contact Disability and Access (D&A). You may refer to D&A's website for contact and more information: <http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/>. If you are already registered with D&A, please deliver your Accommodation Letter to me as early as possible in the semester so we can discuss your approved accommodations.

—By UT Austin policy, you must notify the prof. of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

—Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty (plagiarism, etc.) are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the university. These policies will be strictly enforced. For further information visit the Student Judicial Services website: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>

—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](#).