

War, Terrorism, and Peace: From Just War To Just Peace

Course Description

Wars cause tremendous and unconscionable damage to human societies, yet according to just war theory, they can be justified, either as a form of self-defense (and the defense of others), or as a means of securing the conditions for a future peace. Wars that meet these conditions are called just wars.

In this course, we will undertake a critical examination of just war theory. Drawing on the work of philosophers and peace activists, as well as international humanitarian law (also called the law of armed conflict), we will consider some of the moral complexities surrounding the issues of war and peace. In the first half of the course, our focus will be on war and the work of just war theorists such as Michael Walzer and Jeff McMahan, and we will ask:

- Is self-defensive killing morally permissible, and if so, can its permissibility explain the justness of defensive wars?
- What is the difference, if any, between a just war and an unjust war?
- What is the difference, if any, between war and terrorism?

In the second half of the course, we will turn our attention to peace, and ask:

- What is peace, beyond the cessation of open hostilities?
- What is the relationship between peace, trust, and hope?
- How, in a world that is marked by so much violence, suspicion, and fear, can we turn away from war and towards peace?

Course Website

<https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/161A-PHILOSC156-1>

Use the course website to access course information, including readings, assignments, and announcements.

Instructor

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Office Hours: TBD

Course Expectations

Students should plan on dedicating about 12 hours per week outside of class to reading, studying, and writing. Students are expected to complete all of the weekly readings, to participate in class discussions, and to complete all assignments on time. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

Grading

In-Class quizzes:	30%
Midterm paper:	25%
Final paper:	45%
Total:	100%

A midterm paper, 5 pages in length (double-spaced), will be due in class on July 13. The prompts for the midterm will be distributed in class on July 6. A final paper, 7 pages in length (double-spaced), will be due in class on July 27. The prompts for the final will be distributed in class on July 18.

Academic Honesty

All written work submitted for this course must be your own work. If you use other people's work, either their ideas or their words, you must provide a citation to the original source. Failure to provide proper attribution constitutes plagiarism.

Plagiarism is prohibited by university policy (UCLA Student Conduct Code section 102.01). If a student is caught plagiarizing, he or she must be reported to the Dean, who may decide to suspend or dismiss the student.

If you're unsure whether or not something counts as plagiarism, please ask me. You can also consult the Dean of Students website,

<http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/>

for more information about cheating, multiple submissions of assignments, and plagiarism.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule, and Assignment Due Dates

Please complete the following readings by the date listed (we will read approximately 35-45 pages/lecture):

UNIT 1: WAR**Week 1****06/20: Introduction to Just War Theory**

- Michael Walzer, “Law and Order in International Society” (excerpted from *Just and Unjust Wars*)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (excerpt)

06/22: Self-Defensive Killing

- Judith Jarvis Thomson, “Self-Defense”
- Jeff McMahan, “The Basis of Moral Liability for Defensive Killing”

Week 2**06/27: Self-Defensive Killing (continued)**

- Barbara Herman, “Murder and Mayhem”
- Suzanne Uniacke, “Proportionality and Self-Defense”

06/29: Just War Theory (*Jus ad bellum* and *Jus in bello*)

- Michael Walzer, “The Rules of War” (pp. 34-the top of 44, from *Just and Unjust Wars*)
- Jeff McMahan, “The Just Distribution of Harm Between Combatants and Noncombatants”

◇ Additional Resources (optional readings)

- Geneva Conventions and their additional protocols
- Nuremberg Charter
- U.S. Army, *Field Manual 27-10: The Law of Land Warfare*

Week 3**07/04: No Class****◇ Optional Readings on Genocide and Humanitarian Intervention**

- Adam Roberts, “Humanitarian War: Military Intervention and Human Rights”
- Samantha Powers, “Bystanders to Genocide”
- Genocide Convention
- United Nations General Assembly, “Responsibility to Protect”

07/06: The Supreme Emergency Exception and the Principle of Military Necessity

- Thomas Nagel, “War and Massacre”
- John Taurek, “Should the Numbers Count?”

→ Midterm prompts distributed in class

Week 4**07/11: Terrorism**

- David Rodin, "Terrorism Without Intention"
- Frances Kamm, "Terror and Collateral Damage: Are They Permissible?"

◇ **Additional Resources (optional readings)**

- International Court of Justice, Advisory Opinion, "The Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons" (07/08/96)
- Kenneth Roth, "The Law of War in the War on Terror"

UNIT 2: PEACE**07/13: Critique of Just War Theory**

- David Rodin, "War and Defense of Persons" and "War, Responsibility, and Law Enforcement" (pp. 163-179, from *War and Self-Defense*)

→ Midterm due in class, online and hard copy

Week 5**07/18: Peace and Trust**

- Iredell Jenkins, "The Conditions of Peace"
- Karen Jones, "Trust as an Affective Attitude"

→ Final paper prompts distributed in class

07/20: Hope

- Margaret Urban Walker, "Hope" (from *Moral Repair*)
- Victoria McGeer, "The Art of Good Hope"

Week 6**07/25: Nonviolence**

- Robert L. Holmes, "War, Power and Nonviolence" and "The Morality of Nonviolence" (from *The Ethics of Nonviolence*)
- Simone Weil, "The Iliad, or the Poem of Force"

07/27: Pacific Resistance

- William Faulkner, "An Odor of Verbena"

◇ **Additional Resources (optional reading)**

- Oscar Arias Sánchez, "The Structural Aspects of the Struggle for Human Security"
- Desmond Tutu, "Transforming Systems of Violence at the Intergroup Level"
- José Ramos-Horta, "Resisting the Domination of Stronger Neighbors"

→ Final paper due in class, online and hard copy