

# PSCI 490: Ethics in War

## Spring 2021

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*\*Please remember: the syllabus is subject to change to suit class needs.\**

**Instructor:** Dr. Christopher Bennett

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**Office Location:** Hagey Hall 354

**Office Hours:** Thursdays at 1 (see details on LEARN).

### ***Contact Policy:***

Please always email me from your Waterloo University account and indicate your reason for emailing in the subject line (e.g. Assignment #3; Feedback participation; etc.), along with the course code. Best practice in writing emails also includes a greeting and a signature. While I am less fussy than many, you will encounter professors, bosses, etc., who will absolutely refuse to respond to emails that omit those. I recommend getting in the habit of writing emails as early as possible.

To see me in person, it is best to come by during my offices hours. I am also available to meet at other times by appointment. I am in the office quite a bit outside of these times, so it will be easy to catch me!

### **Course Description**

Normative justifications for engaging in armed conflicts are hotly contested. In this course, we will examine a range of claims about the resort to war (*jus ad bellum*) and conduct in war (*just in bello*), as well as justice in the aftermath of war. Our approach will be philosophical, seeking to understand and to scrutinize some of then normative principles that govern war.

As this is a seminar course, I emphasize students' development of their own perspective the subject matter by requiring consistent, low-stakes writing throughout the whole term. I expect that each and every one of us has a range of deeply-held intuitions about when going to war is permissible, how soldiers should conduct themselves in war, etc., intuitions that may be attached to particular conflicts. I aim for us to improve those intuitions, developing more considered judgements about war.

### **Course Objectives:**

This course will help students learn to:

1. write well and argue convincingly;
2. engage and unpack philosophical arguments;
3. discuss controversial topics charitably but rigorously; and
4. understand, analyze, and evaluate normative claims about the ethics of war;

## Assignment late policy

- A. Late policy: I am quite happy to work with students who have extenuating circumstances that require special consideration (usually an extension). With that in mind, late marks will be deducted as follows: 5% for the first day and 2% per day after that. I will not accept assignments that are more than 10 days late. Weekends count as two days.

Examples:

1 day late: -5%

2 days late: -7%

7 days late: -17%

11 days late: submission refused

Please do get in touch with me as early as possible if you are having any issues completing an assignment, ideally before the deadline. I am very happy to help every student meet the deadlines wherever possible. That said, I stick to the rules as a matter of fairness.

## The Writing Centre:

The Writing Centre works across all faculties to help students clarify their ideas, develop their voices, and write in the style appropriate to their disciplines. Writing Centre staff offer one-on-one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit [www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre). Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

Please note that writing specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not proof-read or edit for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.

## Style Guidelines

Please submit all of your written work with the following specifications.

*Font* – Times New Roman

*Font size* – 12-point font

*Margins* – 2.54 cm / 1-inch margins

*Page numbers* – beginning on the first page of text, not the title page

*Citation style* – Please use the American Journal of Political Science style. This means embedded citations and a bibliography at the end. Footnotes are allowable for explanatory digressions or notes of clarification. If you have any concerns about how use this style, please refer to the reading list for examples of how to do it right.

*Headings* – Yes, you can use headings and subheadings in your submitted work.

## Grade Scale

<b>Letter</b>	<b>% Range</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Letter</b>	<b>% Range</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>A+</b>	90-100	95	<b>C</b>	63-66	65
<b>A</b>	85-89	89	<b>C-</b>	60-62	62
<b>A-</b>	80-84	83	<b>D+</b>	57-59	58
<b>B+</b>	77-79	78	<b>D</b>	53-56	55
<b>B</b>	73-76	75	<b>D-</b>	50-52	52
<b>B-</b>	70-72	72	<b>F+</b>	42-49	46
<b>C+</b>	67-69	68	<b>F</b>	35-41	38
<b>C</b>	63-66	65	<b>F-</b>	0-34	32
<b>C-</b>	60-62	62			

## Topic outline:

All readings come from the following handbook, which is freely available via the UW library website: Lazar, Seth and Helen Frowe, eds. (2018). *The Oxford Handbook of Ethics in War*. Oxford: OUP.

### ***Introduction (Week 1)***

<i>Preparation</i>	
No readings—please listen to my recordings outlining how this course will run	

### ***Module 1 (Weeks 2 & 3)—The basics: traditional vs. revisionist approaches***

<i>Preparation</i>	
Seth Lazar, “Method in the Morality of War” Helen Frowe, “The Just War Framework” I will also make reference to, but not discuss in detail, this chapter: Allen Buchanan, “A Richer <i>Jus ad Bellum</i> ”	

### ***Module 2 (Weeks 4 & 5)—Self-defense & reasons to fights (also a little pacifism)***

<i>Preparation</i>	
Annie Stilz, “Territorial Rights and National Defence” (occupancy rights and self defence) David Luban, “Knowing When Not to Fight” (individuals’ choice to fight and uncertainty) I will make reference to, but not discuss in detail, this chapter: Cheyney Ryan, “Pacifism” (personal vs. political pacifism)	

### ***Module 3 (Weeks 6 & 7)—On whose authority?***

<i>Preparation</i>	
Yitzhak Benbaji, “Legitimate Authority in War” Jonathan Parry, “Civil War and Revolution”	

### ***Module 4 (Weeks 8 & 9)—Expanding liability to lethal harm***

<i>Preparation</i>	
Saba Bazargan, “Noncombatant immunity and War-Profiteering” Adil Ahmad Haque, “Human Shields”	

### ***Module 5 (Weeks 10 & 11)***

<i>Preparation</i>	
F. M. Kamm, “Torture: Rescue, Prevention, and Punishment” Jeff McMahan, “Proportionality and Necessity in <i>Jus in Bello</i> ”	

### ***Module 6—Conclusion (Week 12)***

<i>Preparation</i>	
Darrel Moellendorf, “Ending Wars”	

## University Regulations

### *Cross-listed course:*

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

### *Academic Integrity:*

*Academic Integrity:* In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

*Discipline:* A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

*Grievance:* A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

*Appeals:* A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

*Academic Integrity website (Arts):* [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

*Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):* <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

*Turnitin.com:* Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the

use of Turnitin in this course. If you have read this far, send me an email and I'll give you a one percent bonus on your final grade.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo> for more information.

***Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:***

*Note for students with disabilities:* The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you need to request special accommodation, please communicate with me as soon as possible. This way we can arrange for the proper arrangements with little disruption.