

POLI 5450/4450 – Democracy, Human Rights, War, and Peace
Ethics in International Affairs

Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University
Winter 2024

Time and Location:

Monday 14:35-17:25
LSC-Psychology, Room P5208

Instructor:

Dr. Kiran Banerjee
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Email: kr561466@dal.ca
Office hours: Wednesday 17:30-18:30, by appointment

Course Overview:

What duties do states, and their members, have beyond their borders? Are obligations of justice global in scope? Or, alternatively, are they constrained by national borders? What is the moral standing of states? This advanced undergraduate-level seminar course will focus on contemporary debates in international political theory. In this course we will discuss liberal, republican and discursive democratic perspectives on issues of global justice, particularly in light of global social structures and international inequalities. Major themes include: the historical roots of international relations theory; global distributive justice; republicanism and the ideal of non-domination; the possibility of global discursive democracy; cosmopolitanism; the moral relevance of borders; nationalism, patriotism and special duties; sovereignty, international law and the international order. Major thinkers include: Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Jürgen Habermas, Phillip Pettit, Charles Beitz, Thomas Pogge, Iris Marion Young and Seyla Benhabib, among others. The course will consist of seminar discussions, framed by short presentations by students that draw on their critical reflection papers.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

The main objective of the course is to enable students to understand and seek solutions to pressing problems in the domain of global justice. By the end of the term, students are expected to have become familiar with the multiple dimensions of the theoretical literature and be able to critically evaluate the liberal, republican and discursive democratic attempts to make sense of, and to ameliorate, prevailing instances of injustice in the world. This will be accomplished by the turn a set of thematic issues central to claims of global justice.

Class Format:

The plan is for course sessions to be held face-to-face, University policy permitting. By default, in-person sessions for the week will take place in person on the Monday of each week during the scheduled course session, running for approximately 2.5 hours. The majority of the remaining hour of class time will be allotted to discussion responses.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements:

Permission of the Instructor is needed. Some background in political theory and political philosophy is very helpful, with PHIL 2475 recommended as background. Lectures and readings assume some understanding of the theoretical debates and concepts in contemporary political theory, as well as a basic familiarity with world history and engagement with current events.

CLASS MATERIALS**Readings/Textbooks:**

John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* Harvard UP, 1999
 Seyla Benhabib, *The Rights of Others* Cambridge UP, 2004
 Seyla Benhabib, *Another Cosmopolitanism* Oxford UP, 2006 (Online Only)

Textbooks are available through the Dalhousie University Bookstore.

Electronic Resources:

Readings mentioned in the course outline will be either available for download from Dalhousie Libraries via Proxy links or posted online on the course website — see the ‘Course Readings’ module on Bright Space for details and links to journal articles. It should be noted that any required texts for the class not included in the online ‘course packet’ have been ordered through the University Bookstore.

EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS**Grading Scheme:**

<i>Evaluation Component:</i>	<i>Due Date:</i>	<i>Percent:</i>
Attendance and Participation	Cumulative throughout course.	25%
Critical Reflection/ Seminar Lead	Rolling due dates; submit via BrightSpace board <u>and</u> email.	35%
Short paper topic proposal	Due on March 13 th at 3pm (15:00 AST) submitted by email.	5%

Final Paper	Due on March 28 th at 3pm (15:00 AST) submitted by email.	35%
Total		100%

Evaluation Components:

Participation and Attendance

Value: 25% of final grade

Type: Participation in course discussion is not only strongly encouraged, but required.

Description: Each course session will begin with a brief presentation, followed by class seminar discussion framed by the critical reflections prepared for that day. You will be evaluated based on your active participation in class discussion and engagement with the critical reflection/ kick-off questions of your colleagues.

Following each seminar session students will be expected to post brief ‘discussion responses’ to at least two critical reflection papers, informed by the content and conversation of the day’s course discussion sessions. Participation marks will be determined by cumulative performance throughout the course. Full instructions will be provided on a separate handout on Bright Space immediately following the first class session.

This is an advanced seminar and so active participation in-class discussion and debate is an important part of the course. All students will therefore be expected to come to each class prepared with questions and concerns related to the readings in order to contribute to and advance the discussion through active, engaged participation. To do so, it is expected that students carefully complete all readings for the session prior to class and are sufficiently prepared to articulate and share a point of view on the material that demonstrates a strong command of, and sophisticated engagement with, the assigned texts. Merely being present in the classroom does not count towards this portion of your participation grade.

Critical Reflection Paper / Seminar Leads

Value: 35% of final grade

Type: This assignment requires students to apply critical thinking skills to assess the concepts and arguments encountered in the class and to develop questions based on the readings to frame class discussion.

Description: Active participation in-class discussion and debate is an important part of the course. As part of their mark, each session four or five students will be asked to prepare a critical reflection and discussion questions to get the conversation going. These will begin following our first session and continue through the term.

As part of fulfilling this assignment you must be present in the class session and prepared to open discussion by introducing your critical reflection paper and presenting your kick-off questions to the class. Other students should take the time to read all the reflections for that week and think about the questions, as their own overall participation mark depends on their active engagement in the discussion. When writing your Critical Reflection, keep in mind that the assignment should be no more

than 1 single-spaced page in length. Roughly 85% of the assignment should be taken up with your critical reflection on week's readings. The remainder should be taken up with one or two kick-off questions.

Critical Reflections will be assigned and marked on an ongoing basis. Students must distribute their critical reflections to all students and the instructor **no later than 3 pm the day prior to the class**, via Bright Space, on the course discussion board. The exact number of Critical Reflections assigned will depend on enrolment in the course. Full instructions will be provided on a separate handout and on Bright Space immediately following the first class session.

Paper Topic Proposal

Value: 5% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Type: This written assignment requires students to apply knowledge acquired from the course readings and preliminary research to develop a provisional paper topic for their final paper. Paper topic proposals should be no more than a half-page in length and ought to be modeled on an introductory paragraph explaining the scope and thesis of the proposed paper, as well as outlining how the argument will proceed. Students should use the final essay assignment instructions as a guide.

Description: The paper topic proposal format will be discussed in class. Submission of the paper proposal will also facilitate the required instructor approval of topics for final papers.

Final Paper

Value: 35% of final grade

Date: See Course Schedule

Type: This written assignment requires students to apply critical thinking skills to assess the concepts and arguments encountered in the class. Students must demonstrate critical thinking and writing skills.

Description: The purpose of the final essay is to apply what you have learned during the course by assessing the ideas and arguments presented by the different political theories covered by the course. To do so, students will write a paper on a topic of their choosing, drawn from the course material and support by independent research. Instructor approval of topics is required and should be undertaken via the paper topic proposal. Directions for the assignment will be made available subsequently on Bright Space.

All assignments must be completed and submitted in order to pass this course.

EVALUATION POLICIES

Statement on Academic Integrity:

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism on the Policies and Student Resources sections of the academicintegrity.dal.ca website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation

of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the information on the University's academic integrity website as well as consult the student resources provided on the site.

A note concerning the use of AI: Generative writing tools, including applications such as Chat GPT, are not permitted.

Citation Style:

Written assignments must conform to Chicago Manual of Style notes-bibliography style guidelines (see the "Chicago" section on the Style Guides research guide page at <https://libraries.dal.ca/help/style-guides.html>).

Submitting Assignments:

Final paper assignments are to be submitted in electronic (MS Word) form through Brightspace and via email. Electronic assignments in alternate software (e.g., Pages, Publisher) will not be accepted. The file name must start with your last name and first initial, followed by the assignment type (e.g., "Smith K Research Paper.doc"). Your assignment will not be considered submitted unless you have submitted your assignment electronically via Brightspace and directly by email to the instructor. Assignments should not be submitted to the Department office; any such assignments will not be accepted as submitted.

All written submissions must be typed; double-spaced; Times New Roman font. Please do not include a cover page; however, make sure to include a heading with your name, student number, my name and the course code, date, as well as the assignment title ("Final Essay"). Correct grammar and proper formatting of your written work will be important to your grade. Marks will be deducted for grammatical, spelling and formatting errors.

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence:

The course policy is that late assignments are penalized 10% per week, beginning from the date the assignment is due. Exceptions may be made, at my discretion, for students who contact me regarding medical reasons or family emergencies (but not computer-related emergencies) before assignments are due. Documentation will be required in these cases.

For final papers, you have a 48 hour discretionary deadline beyond the stated deadline. During this period, no grades will be deducted, but you will forfeit comments on your paper. After 48 hours, you will be docked the full 10% per week, until the assignment is submitted. Barring extensions, work submitted more than 10 days after assignment deadlines will not be accepted.

The student declaration of absence form replaces sick notes for absences of three days or fewer that result in missed or late academic requirements. However, if you do not inform the professor in advance, or the assignment is very late, your work may be penalized as per course policy. Please refer to Bright Space for more information about the policy and for the form itself.

Grading Policy:

The course's grading scheme follows the Dalhousie undergraduate academic calendar.

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/grade-scale-and-definitions.html

Grade Appeal Policy:

A student who is dissatisfied with the assessment of their work or performance in any aspect of class work, including a midterm or final examination, shall follow the procedures set out below. Please carefully review these procedures. Once an appeal is submitted the entire assignment will be re-examined, not just the question or paragraph mentioned in the appeal. The appeal process can, therefore, result in one of three outcomes: no change to the original grade, a higher grade, or a lower grade.

Students who wish to initiate the first procedural step outlined in the course policy to have an assignment or exam grade revisited must do the following:

- a) Within five days of receipt of the assignment grade, submit to me via email a written explanation, no more than one page in length (typed and single-spaced) explaining why the grade should be revisited and what the grader missed in his/her comments. Along with this explanation, please provide me with an electronic copy (scanned if necessary) of the original exam or paper. (You should retain the original copy.)
- b) After submission of the written materials, it is your responsibility to contact me via email to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss the exam/paper and your written submission.

Participation and Attendance Expectations:

This class does have an attendance and participation grade, and students are expected to attend all or most class sessions.

CLASS POLICIES**Respect:**

You are expected to treat your fellow students, your instructor and guest lecturers with respect. Please show up to sessions on time, refrain from talking and texting when others are speaking, and turn all mobile devices to silent mode. Communications with the instructor, be they in person, over email or over the telephone, should be courteous and professional.

It bears repeating and emphasizing that, in the context of the course's synchronous and asynchronous class activities, just as in the face-to-face environment, students should treat each other (and all class participants) with kindness and respect.

This expectation of respect is mandated by the Student Code of Conduct, but is particularly important to keep in mind in the context of an online learning environment, where there are heightened risks of

misunderstanding. Accordingly, students should be especially mindful of the need to maintain a polite and respectful level of engagement.

Email Policy:

In all email communications with the instructor, please include the course code in the subject line, use proper greetings and salutations, and sign-off with your full name. Student email communications will be limited to requests to set up appointments (if meeting during office hours is not possible) and notifying me of extended absences. I will not: respond to questions regarding information clearly stated in the course syllabus by email; discuss substantive issues or answer substantive questions (i.e. those requiring an answer longer than a couple of sentences) by email; accept Critical Reflection assignments by email; or respond to an unprofessional or rude email. I respond to emails during normal university work hours (i.e., Mon-Fri. 9 am – 5 pm), and students can typically expect a response to an email inquiry within two work-days. I do not typically respond to emails in the evenings, on weekends, or on statutory holidays.

Recording of the Course and Class Slides:

I do not record classes nor provide slides from course presentations. Other materials provided for the course are subject to the copyright of the relevant copyright holder and may not be reproduced or copied in whole or in part without the consent of the appropriate authority. Non-authorized audio / video recordings of presentations and/or seminar sessions are not permitted under any circumstances.

Copyright:

Class materials, including lecture slides and content, are normally the intellectual property of the person who has made the presentation in the class. Copyright provides presenters with the legal right to control the use of their own creations. As noted above, students are not permitted to record the classes. Class materials, including that made available on Bright Space and written notes of the lectures, may not be copied, reproduced, redistributed, or edited by anyone without permission of the presenter except as allowed under law.

Student Feedback:

Students are encouraged to provide the instructor with constructive feedback on their learning experience across the course of the term.

Student Code of Conduct:

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Read more: at https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html.

Accessibility:

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Read more at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Accommodations:

Please note that while faculty are expected to undertake reasonable measures to implement student accommodations plans, faculty also retain the right to assess each plan in light of the pedagogical aims of the course as well as other reasonable considerations, including but not limited to intellectual property, privacy, academic freedom, class size, and workload, and to suggest other alternatives.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect:

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2). Read more at: <https://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments:

(See Module - 'Class Schedule & Readings')

UNIVERSITY STATEMENTS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**Territorial Acknowledgement**

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

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The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD). Click here to read more.

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity. (read more: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)
dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures
dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program
dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support - Academic Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
- Copyright and Fair Dealing:
<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>
- Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca>
- Student Health Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling and Psychological Services:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- Black Student Advising:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html
- Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html
- ELearning Website: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>
- Student Advocacy Services: <http://dsu.ca/dsas>
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html
- Writing Centre:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success program and tutoring:
https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html