PHL 4360 Philosophy of War and Peace

University of Saint Thomas

DR JOHN HITTINGER
SUMMER 2015

Class: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday 12:40-2:50
Dougherty Library room 009
Office Hours: MW 10:30-11:30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An examination issues arising within the Just War Theory with special emphasis on the history and development of philosophies of war and peace; attention will be given to issues of wars of intervention, humanitarian intervention, nuclear war, and the war on terrorism. This course is designed to:

• explore some of the enduring questions that have shaped questions about war and warriors: Is it justifiable to use deadly force? What is courage? Are there moral limits to use of force?
• Introduce students to the concepts and principles of the just war theory and to consider applications to historical case studies.
• frame contemporary issues concerning war such as torture, humanitarian intervention, and technology with clarity and rigor.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: student shall be able to –

✓ State and explain the principles of the just war theory
✓ Apply the principles of the just war theory to historical and current events
✓ Explain alternative philosophies of realism and pacifism and state arguments pro and con
✓ Identify the historical roots of current thinking about war and peace
✓ Identify the key philosopher(s) and explain their philosophy of war and peace from Greek, Roman, Christian, Islamic, Modern and contemporary culture/eras
✓ Apply just-war criteria to issues of humanitarian intervention, terrorism and torture

TEXTS: The following texts are required for the course. Readings for each class meeting will be assigned from the following books and will be the basis for class lectures and discussions; additional readings are available on Blackboard and/or handout. Adjustments will be made as needed to reading assignments and schedule; please keep track of updates.

(1) Greg Reichberg, editor. The Ethics of War: Classic and Contemporary Readings (Blackwell)
ISBN: 1-4051-2378-8

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS: see attached sheets
COURSE REQUIREMENTS / DETERMINATION OF GRADE

Participation 15%
Prepare by reading assignments prior to class. About twice a week a brief quiz will be given at start of class. Be ready to discuss readings at every class; when a study guide is provided it would be helpful to prepare answers to questions and to present them in class; also, raising questions, making comments, challenging ideas are good participatory activities.

Case Study Project 15%
Each student will prepare a response for one the case studies from Colman book; the topic will be the application of just war principles to historical events and scenarios. The student will make a presentation in class and turn in a report afterwards.

Reflection papers 30%
Each student will write 4 brief (3 pp) philosophical reflections on the readings, discussions and films. Identify an issue and discuss how the film or reading treated the problem. The student should submit a paper on Blackboard at least once a week. An electronic version as well as a written version should be submitted.

Final Exam 40%
Comprehensive final: short answers and essay.

GRADING SCALE

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NOTE: For the meaning of the letter grades given in this course, see the Undergraduate Catalog. A grade of “A” means “Excellent — unusual and superior achievement”; a grade of “B” means “Good — above average, articulate achievement”; a grade of “C” means “Satisfactory — average work”; and so on. Performance levels in the course will be assessed in terms of these criteria. Thus, a performance judged, e.g., to be quite good and articulate will be awarded (some level of) a grade of “B” — not an "A," which is reserved for a performance of unusual and superior achievement, etc.

POLICY ON ABSENCES
Regular attendance is required. After 2 absences, points will be deducted from the final grade for classes not attended. Remember that each summer class represents about a week and half of class during a regular semester. Responsibility for acquainting oneself with material covered in a missed class rests solely with the student. The professor will not repeat a lecture or summarize a discussion a student has missed.

MAKE-UP EXAMS
University policy stipulates that there be no make-up final exams. The final exam in this course must be taken at the time it is scheduled by the university, the only exception being for students with special learning needs as stipulated in the Handbook for Faculty and Administrators, sec. 6.6.6.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty is a serious offense, inasmuch as it undermines the integrity of the educational mission of the university. The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is a grade of “F” for the course. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:
1. Cheating on an examination or test; e.g., by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials during a test;
2. Plagiarism, which presents as one’s own the work of another and not acknowledging the source;
3. Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another, even though one’s own work is not directly affected;
4. Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.