George Mason University Course Approval Form
Office of the Registrar

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Department: Public and International Affairs  Course Abbrev/Number__GOVT 841

Prepared by: Julianne Mahler, Dept. Public & International Affairs  Ext: 3-1414

Full CourseTitle: Ethics And Human Rights In International Affairs

Abbreviated Course Title (Inventory will only accommodate 24 characters):
Ethc & Hum Rts Intl Aff

Term First (new courses): F 2006  Course Level: GA  UL=Undergrad lower
UU=Undergrad upper  GF=Grad lower (500-600)  GA= Grad upper (700 + )

Credit Hours: (Fixed)__3__ (Var.)______  Catalog Format : (3:3:0)

Previous Course ID :_________________ Last Term Course will be Offered:___________

Repeatable for Credit: N  D=Yes, but not within same term (indicate max hrs) Up to:
T=Yes, within same term (indicate max hrs) (Maximum hours)
N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code 1: Sem  LEC=Lecture  LAB=Lab  Maximum Enrollment:
Activity Code 2:  RCT=Recitation  SEM=Seminart  STU=Studio  INT=Internship
IND=Independent Study

Prereq: GOVT 540

Approval:
Department or Program:_________________________ Date:_____________________

(Signature)

College Council:_______________________________ Date:_____________________

(Signature- if applicable)

Graduate Council:*____________________________ Date:_____________________

(Signature - Provost or Graduate Council Representative)

*All courses numbered 500 or above must be forwarded to Graduate Council once approved at the departmental or college level. OtR 11/99
Ethics and International Affairs is a seminar that will ask students to wrestle with dilemmas raised by the desire to behave ethically in an international system in which consensus about ethical matters is absent. Distributive justice, human rights, and the use of force are over-arching themes. Students will develop, apply, and justify their own perspective on an ethical problem using ethical theory and social science research. Student participation is central to this course. There will be some lively discussions and no prior answers are assumed.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class Participation. Regular and Constructive class participation is required.

2. Debate: Each student takes a side in a debate in a class session. Come to class prepared to discuss the topic of the day and to demonstrate mastery of the day’s reading. Support your conclusions with arguments, data and theory!

3. Watch a set of movies from the following list. Write a 5-page analysis of the movies, comparing how each of the film makers dealt with ONE issue related to international ethics, what you believe each film maker’s position on the issue to be, WHY you approve or disapprove of the way each film maker portrayed the issue, and WHY you agree or disagree with those positions. Due February 23.

   Ø Platoon, Saving Private Ryan, We Were Soldiers Then;
   Ø My Concubine, Heaven and Earth, the Last Emperor;
   Ø Michael Collins, Crying Game, the Siege;
   Ø Heart of Darkness, Lawrence of Arabia; 53 Days at Peking
   Ø Master and Commander, The Hunt for Red October, Crimson Tide
   Ø Pleasantville, Searchers, The Last Samurai;
   Ø Three other related films approved by instructor.

4. Write a 5-page analytic book review of one of the following books. Due March 24.

   Ø Jack Donnelly, International Human Rights
   Ø Henry Shue, Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy
   Ø Thomas Donaldson, The Ethics of International Business
   Ø Fiona Robinson, Globalizing the Ethics of Care
   Ø John Kelsay, Islam and War: A Study in Comparative Ethics
   Ø His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Ethics for the New Millennium
   Ø Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars
   Ø David Held and Anthony McGrew, Globalization/Anti-Globalization.
   Ø Another book approved by the instructor.

4. 5-7 Page Short Paper: Take a position related to international ethics. TOPIC MUST BE CHECKED WITH INSTRUCTOR. Start from one of the ethical perspectives we have discussed, or specify another of your own. Try to persuade the reader of your position. Grades will be based on: persuasiveness, explicit application of course reading and lectures; correct substantive material. Spelling, grammar, usage, and correct use of citation formats required. (MLA or Chicago
Manual of Style format.) Due April 5.

5. 15-20 Page Long Paper: Take the argument you laid out in your short paper and expand it with more detailed arguments and empirical evidence. Grades will be based on: persuasiveness, originality, imaginative application of course reading and lectures; correct substantive and theoretical material. Spelling, grammar, usage, and correct use of citation format required. (MLA or Chicago Manual of Style format.) Due May 3.

Required Reading Complete BEFORE class assigned!
Andrew Valls. Ethics in International Affairs, Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2000Internet-based material, as noted below.

Grading Scale:
97-100 points = A+; 94-96 points = A; 90-93 points = A-; 87-89 points = B+; 84-86 points = B; 80-83 points = B-; 70-79 points = C; 60-69 points = D; 50 points = F. Normal rounding rules apply.

An assignment with good use of course reading and lectures, correct substantive material, and persuasive arguments, originality, style and spelling, and correct use of MLA or Chicago Manual of Style citation format will earn 92% of available points. Assignments given 95-100% of available points are also: very original and/or use course resources in an especially notable way.

COURSE CALENDAR

Jan. 26 Welcome and Introduction to Course
Introduction to Ethical Theory in the Global Arena.
Amstutz, Chapters 1, 3
Harbour: Introduction, Chapter 1, 3.

Feb. 2, A Closer Look at Realists, Utilitarians, and Deontologists
Amstutz, Chapters 2, 3
Harbour, Chapters 2, and 4-8
Debate: Should the United States Have Bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

Feb. 9, Virtue Ethics
Amstutz, Chapter 7
Debate: Are Economic Sanctions Good Policy?

Feb. 16, Human Rights
Amstutz, Chapter 4, Case 3-2
Donnelly in Rosenthal
Debate: Should Outsiders have tried much harder to prevent or stop Genocide in Rwanda?

February 23, Culture and Ethics
Rosenthal: Sen, Hsu, Harbour
Harbour: Chapters 9, 10, 11.
Amstutz, Case 4-1
Debate: Should the U.S. Have Continued Granting Most Favored Nation Trading Status after the Tienanmen Square Massacre?

March 1, War in Two Ethical Traditions: Western Just War, and Classical Islam
Amstutz, Chapter 5
Valls: Fotion, Harbour
Understanding Islam in Various Aspects in light of the Qur'an and Sunnah." Understanding-islam.org, an affiliate of Al-Mawrid Institute of Islamic Sciences, available online:
Debate: Was Initiating the War in Iraq Morally Desirable?

3/6-3/14 SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS

March 15, Just War and Terror
Valls: Valls, George, Gordan and Lopez
Debate: Is there a Difference between Terrorists and Freedom Fighters?

March 22, Justice, and Humanitarian Intervention
Amstutz, Chapter 6
Rosenthal: Graybill, Monroe, Norton, Hendrickson, Smith
Debate: Should the United States Have Left Somalia after the Black Hawk Down Incident?

March 29, Distributive Justice and Global Inequality
Valls: Jones, Casen
Stanford Online Encyclopedia of Philosophy, "Ethics, Distributive" Available via Course WebCT site.
Rosenthal, p. 296-348
Debate: Is Foreign Aid a Perfect Duty, An Imperfect Duty, or Charity?

April 7, The Ethics of Global Society
Amshutz, chapter 8, 9.

April 12 Environmental Ethics and Business Ethics
Valls: Goodin
Rosenthal: Donaldson
Valls: Elfstrom
Debate: Should Outsiders Boycott Companies with Poor Environmental Practices?

April 19-May 3 Student Presentations