

## **Ethics and International Politics POLS 467**

### **Course Information:**

Fall 2015  
Classroom: MOU 106  
Meeting time: 11-11:50 a.m. MWF  
Course Website: Moodle

### **Contact Information:**

Instructor: Elizabeth Nyman  
Email: enyman@louisiana.edu  
Office: Mouton Hall 229  
Office Hours: TR 9-12 and by appt.

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course provides students with an overview of the basics of the philosophical concepts of ethics and morality in an applied setting. We will examine major concerns and issues in international politics, ranging from issues of war and conflict to human rights concerns to international economics and inequality, considering the ethical implications of these problems as well as the solutions that have been proposed for mitigating them. At the end of this course, students should be able to evaluate major world events and current affairs with an understanding of the moral underpinnings that guide the actions states and leaders take to resolve international problems and crises.

### **Required Texts**

Mark Amstutz, *International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2009.

### **Course Requirements**

(1) **Exam Papers:** There will be two examinations in this course. They will each be worth 30% of the course grade. I will provide a paper topic over which students will write an 8-10 page exam response. These papers are open book, open notes, but the usual rules on plagiarism apply and students are not allowed to work together. Late exam papers will not be accepted.

(2) **Paper:** Each student will be responsible for writing a 6-8 page paper analyzing ethics and Kristof and WuDunn's *Half the Sky*. This is worth 25% of the course grade. More information about the paper will be distributed later in the class.

(3) **Participation:** Students are required to attend class regularly and participate actively in class discussion. Students will be graded on their participation in class discussion, and this will make up 15% of the course grade. Active participation is necessary to garner full credit, and this means that students are expected to have done the required reading in advance, to have considered the topic under discussion as they read, and to come to class with an active interest in the material. This is an upper division course, and participation grades will reflect that.

### **Course Letter Grades**

Final course letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

I will not respond to end of semester emails requesting a grade change.

### **Course Policies**

**Absences from Exams and Late Work:** Makeup exams will be allowed when students are participating in formally sanctioned University events if proper documentation is provided to the instructor prior to the exam. Makeup exams will also be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

**Academic Honor Policy:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students committing these violations will be punished according to University policy. Be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism; ignorance is not an excuse. Consult Section V in the UL Lafayette Undergraduate Bulletin for the university definitions of plagiarism for more information about what constitutes an offense.

**Courtesy in the Classroom:** Attention to classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distraction. As such, please silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Please be on time to class and remain in class until you are dismissed. If you must arrive late or leave early, please take the seat nearest an exit, and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please show respect for your fellow students by refraining from talking during lectures, as well as when other students are speaking. Similarly, please respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you are in disagreement with them. Repeated disruption of class will lead to a reduction of your final grade.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** UL Lafayette does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability. This classroom is intended to be a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. If you have any suggestions as to how I can improve the learning environment in this course, please let me know. I will give all such suggestions serious consideration.

**Health Issues and Disabilities:** Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should speak with the Office of Disability Services at 337-482-5252 or [ods@louisiana.edu](mailto:ods@louisiana.edu) and receive documentation. You can

also visit the ODS website (<http://disability.louisiana.edu>) for information on ODS services and on eligibility requirements. Furthermore, if you are concerned about your physical and/or mental well-being, I strongly encourage you to visit the UL Counseling and Testing Center, Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall, or call them at 337-482-6480. After hours help can be found by calling University Police at 337-482-6447 and asking to speak with the counselor on call.

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure:** Students with any sort of condition that may place them at risk during an emergency evacuation are responsible for preplanning their own evacuation strategies. You are also responsible for identifying yourself to your professor at the beginning of the semester and sharing information on your particular needs and your evacuation plan.

### Course Outline\*\*

#### Global Issues

Week 1 (August 24-28)	Introduction (Amstutz Chapter 1)
Week 2 (August 31-Sept 4)	International Relations Theory and Ethics: Realism (Amstutz, Chapter 3, pages 45-53; Morgenthau, "International Morality," on Moodle)
Week 3 (Sept 7-11) <b>Labor Day: Sept. 7</b>	International Relations Theory and Ethics: Liberalism/Idealism (Amstutz, Chapter 3, rest)
Week 4 (Sept 14-18)	Making Ethical Decisions (Amstutz, Chapter 4)
Week 5 (Sept 21-25)	Global Inequality (United Nations Millennium Declaration, United Nations Millennium Declaration Report 2011, both on Moodle)
Week 6 (Sept 28-Oct 2) <b>Paper Due: Sept. 30</b> <b>Fall Holiday: Oct. 1-2</b>	Foreign Aid and Gender Issues (Kristof and WuDunn, all)
Week 7 (Oct. 5-9)	Economic Relations (Amstutz, Chapter 10)
Week 8 (Oct 12-16) <b>Exam Paper 1 Due: Oct. 16</b>	Global Justice (Amstutz, Chapter 12)

## **Ethics of Conflict**

Week 9 (Oct 19-23)	Ethics of War (Amstutz, Chapter 7; Teson, “Ending Tyranny in Iraq,” and Nardin, “Humanitarian Imperialism,” both on Moodle)
Week 10 (Oct 26-30)	Human Rights (Amstutz, Chapter 5), Torture (Elder, “The Bomb is Ticking”, <a href="http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/ethicalperspectives/torture-ethics.html">http://www.scu.edu/ethics/publications/ethicalperspectives/torture-ethics.html</a> ), and Wolfendale, “Torture Lite,” on Moodle)
Week 11 (Nov 2-6)	Intervention (Amstutz, Chapter 9)
Week 13 (Nov 16-20)	Intervention cont.
Week 14 (Nov 23-27)	Reconciliation and Genocide (Amstutz, Chapter 6)
Week 14 (Nov 23-27) <b>Thanksgiving: Nov. 26-27</b>	Nuclear Weapons (Lee, “Nuclear Proliferation”, on Moodle)
Week 15 (Nov 30-Dec 4)	Terrorism and Irregular War (Amstutz, Chapter 8; David, “Israel’s Policy of Targeted Killing”, on Moodle)

**Exam Paper 2 Due: Tuesday, December 8, 2-4:30 p.m.**

**\*\* The syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change if necessary.**