**PHIL 767**

**2019**

**CURRENT ISSUES IN GLOBAL JUSTICE**

**Course Convenor:**

Gillian Brock - g.brock[@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:john.smith@auckland.ac.nz)

**Course delivery format:**

2 hours of lectures and 1 hour of tutorial/discussion

(Timetable and room details can be viewed on [Student Services Online](http://www.student.guest.auckland.ac.nz/psc/ps/EMPLOYEE/SA/c/UOA_COMMUNITY_ACCESS_FL.UOA_CLSRCH_FL.GBL?languageCd=ENG)). See below for current information.)

**Summary of Course Description:**

In *The Law of Peoples* John Rawls sets out the general principles that should regulate the interactions of all the peoples of the world. He argues that these principles should be acceptable to both liberal and non-liberal societies. We start off by examining whether Rawls's principles are an adequate standard for regulating peoples' behaviour and whether the principles should be acceptable to liberal and non-liberal societies. We then move on to discuss the work of several critics.

We consider various issues related to Global Distributive Justice, such as these: What, if anything, are people owed as a matter of justice in the global context? Do we have responsibilities to assist the global poor? Should we endorse a Global Difference Principle? Are global taxes such as Thomas Pogge’s proposed Global Resources Dividend defensible?

Having dealt with some fundamental theoretical issues, we go on to consider three highly prominent sets of issues in the areas of immigration, military intervention, and economic justice. For instance, we consider: Which restrictions on immigration, if any, are justified? Are protectionist policies in trade justified? Can globalization be better harnessed to assist the global poor? How can we better assist those in poor countries who are trying to help themselves?

In the second part of the course we also consider issues concerning the basis and limits of sovereignty, considering issues related to when (if ever) intervention may be justified at the international level. Some questions considered include: Is military intervention ever justified for humanitarian purposes (such as in recent years in the cases of Sudan, Libya or Rwanda)? When, if ever, is war permissible? Can preventive war ever be justified using the just war framework?

**Course outcomes:**

*A student who successfully completes this course will have the opportunity to:*

* *be able to identify justice and ethical components of international problems and offer analyses of these.*
* *acquire knowledge of global justice issues and apply it to current problems.*
* *enhance their capabilities in scholarly analysis, interpretation of evidence, and presentation of reasoned arguments.*
* *acquire and develop skills in report writing, critical thinking, academic literacy, and oral presentation.*

**Course lecturer:** Professor Gillian Brock

**Lectures**: Wednesdays, 1-3pm. (206-201)

**Discussion hour**: Fridays 3-4pm. These start in the first week of the semester. (206-214.)

**Assessment:**

Option 1: One presentation worth 25%, one essay (length: 3000 words) worth 60%, class discussion worth 15%.

OR

Option 2: One 6000 word essay worth 100%. (A 15 minute short presentation is also a requirement of the course. Failure to do the short presentation attracts a 5% penalty.)

**Essay topics** are discussed below. These will be extensively discussed in the lectures and in the discussion hours. Each student will be expected to discuss their essay with me individually and submit a draft at least two weeks before the end of the semester.

Essays are due: Wednesday, October 30 by 3pm.

**Class contributions:**

Further advice about what is expected for the class discussion component will be provided in the Friday session. Class contributions in the form of raising current issues of global justice pertinent to the class are welcome, in addition to reflections and comments on the readings assigned for the week.

**Office location:** Room 458, Humanities Building.

E-mail: [g.brock@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:g.brock@auckland.ac.nz) to set up an appointment, if you would like one. Email is the best and quickest way to do this, though you may also like to try my extension: 88739 (university phone number is 373 7599).

**Reference Material**:

Highly recommended:

Gillian Brock *Global Justice: A Cosmopolitan Account* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

Where they exist, there are links to electronic copies of resources mentioned in this syllabus (below) from the Talis reading list. Additional reading suggestions are also made throughout the course.

Because of copyright restrictions only limited portions of some relevant texts are available through Talis, notably:

John Rawls *The Law of Peoples* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard, 1999).

Rawls’s book is available in the short-term loan library.

**Tentative Schedule**

Note that this schedule serves only as a rough guide to approximate course content on a week-by-week basis

Introduction for weeks 1-3:

In *The Law of Peoples* John Rawls sets out the general principles that should regulate the interactions of all the peoples of the world.  He argues that these principles should be acceptable to both liberal and non-liberal societies.  We start off by examining whether Rawls's principles are an adequate standard for regulating peoples' behaviour and whether the principles should be acceptable to liberal and non-liberal societies.  We then move on to discuss the work of several critics.   The main topics covered in these weeks concern Global Distributive Justice and the best framework for thinking about matters of Global Justice.

Week 1: 24 July:

Introduction to some of the central issues.  Survey of positions and arguments.

Introduction to the central debate.  Introduction to Rawls's views.

Readings:

Extracts from John Rawls *The Law of Peoples* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 30-43, 48-51, 62-67, 71-72, 75-78. Gillian Brock, *Global Justice*, Chapter 1.

Week 2: 31 July:

Rawls's views continued.  Introduction to critics of Rawls's views.   Introducing the views of Thomas Pogge.

Themes introduced and discussed:

Global Distributive Justice.  Should we endorse a Global Difference Principle?  Should we endorse global taxes such as Thomas Pogge’s proposed Global Resource Dividend?

Readings:

Extracts from John Rawls *The Law of Peoples* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999), pp. 105-120.

Thomas Pogge "Priorities of Global Justice" *Metaphilosophy* 32 (2001): 6-24.

Week 3: 7 August:

Critics of Rawls' views continued.  Further discussion of Thomas Pogge’s views.

Themes discussed:

Global Distributive Justice.  Should we endorse a “sufficientarian” account of global distributive justice, such as is endorsed by the capabilities approach?

Readings:

Gillian Brock, *Global Justice*, Chapter 2.

Thomas Pogge "An Egalitarian Law of Peoples" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 23 (1994): 195-224.

Martha Nussbaum *Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, Species Membership* (Cambridge, Mass: Belknap, 2006), pp. 69-95.

Week 4: 14 August:

Immigration:  What restrictions, if any, are justified in immigration?

Readings:

Michael Walzer “The Distribution of Membership” in *Boundaries: National Autonomy and Its Limits*, ed. Peter G. Brown and Henry Shue (Totowa: Rowman and Littlefield, 1981), pp. 1-35.

Joseph Carens “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders” *The Review of Politics* 49 (2) (Spring 1987): 251-273.

Week 5: 21 August:

Immigration continued.  What restrictions, if any, are justified in immigration?

Readings:

Joseph Carens “Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders” *The Review of Politics* 49 (2) (Spring 1987): 251-273. (continued)

Mathias Risse “On the Morality of Immigration” *Ethics and International Affairs* 22 (2008): 25-33.

Gillian Brock *Global Justice*, Chapter 8.

Week 6: 28 August

Immigration concluded.  Readings as above.

In addition there will be further discussion of essay details in class, with suggestions and advice offered.

MID-SEMESTER BREAK

Week 7: 18 September:

What grounds state sovereignty and what are its limits?  When is the use of force justified at the global level?   An overview of Just War Theory.  Intervention for Humanitarian Purposes.

Readings:

Background reading - “Just War Theory” from the *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.*

Extracts from the “Responsibility to Protect Report” compiled by the Committee on Intervention and State Sovereignty.

Week 8: 25 September

When is the use of force justified at the global level?   Intervention for Humanitarian Purposes continued. Some application of the theory to specific wars, such as the Second Gulf War.

Readings:

Extracts from the “Responsibility to Protect Report” compiled by the Committee on Intervention and State Sovereignty.

Gillian Brock “Humanitarian Intervention,” Global Justice, Chapter 7.

David Mellow “Iraq: A Morally Justified War” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 23 (2006): 293-310.

Week 9: 2 October:

Some application of the theory to specific wars, such as, the Second Gulf War, continued.  Can preventive war ever be justified using the just war framework?

Readings:

David Mellow “Iraq: A Morally Justified War” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 23 (2006): 293-310.

Allen Buchanan and Robert O. Keohane “The Preventive Use of Force: A Cosmopolitan Institutional Proposal” *Ethics and International Affairs* 18 (2004): 1-22.

Week 10: 9 October:

Does globalization harm or help the global poor?  Can globalization be better harnessed to assist the global poor?  How can we better assist those in poor countries who are trying to help themselves?

Readings:

Peter Singer *One World: the ethics of globalization* (Yale University Press, 2002), Hardcopy, pp. 86-117; E-book version on Pro Quest Ebrary, pp. 77-105.

Mathias Risse “How Does the Global Order Harm the Poor?” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 33 (Fall, 2005): 349-376.

Gillian Brock *Global Justice*, Chapter 5 and Chapter 9.

Week 11: 16 October:

Optional topic. This year we will focus on fair trade and students may do their assignment on this topic. This project is designed to be tackled as a group project, as group members can explore different aspects of the problem in more detail. For this project there is a required presentation. Presentations will happen in this week.

What account of fair trade is most plausible? Outline and defend your position. Then answer (a) or (b), or both:

(5a) Is some version of fair trade possible in our globalized world?

(5b) Do consumers have a role to play in making trade fair?

Week 12: 23 October:

No class for PHIL 767 students

**ESSAY**

**Essay questions.**

**Choose ONE of the following questions:**

1. Why does Rawls believe he has offered us a realistic utopia in the *Law of Peoples*? What arguments does Rawls use in defense of his position? Why do critics believe Rawls has failed? Do you believe Rawls has offered us a realistic utopia? Be sure to argue for your views.
2. Which human rights should all reasonable peoples acknowledge? Critically discuss with reference to John Rawls’s views and with reference to at least one other theorist. You may choose from the following list of theorists or choose another (though it may be good to check with me first if you are choosing someone not mentioned): Darrel Moellendorf, Thomas Pogge, David Reidy, Amartya Sen, or James Nickel. For more details about these theorists’ views, along with references to some of their work, see Brock, *Global Justice*, Chapter 2.
3. Pick one important issue involving migration and justice. Explain why it is an important matter that involves justice. Critically discuss how we should resolve the issue, using materials from this course, along with others you believe to be relevant.

I have also included the option of an essay topic that is intended for independent study and exploration, as a group project. If you choose question 4, you must also do a presentation on your essay. These presentations will happen in week 11.

1. What account of fair trade is most plausible? Outline and defend your position. Then answer (a) or (b), or both:

(5a) Is some version of fair trade possible in our globalized world?

(5b) Do consumers have a role to play in making trade fair?

Be sure to argue for your views.

**World length**: For essay topics 1-3, no more than 6000 words (Option 2) or 3000 (Option 1).

For essay topic 4, the length should be 3000 words (though I will allow you to write up to 4000 words, if you prefer). A short presentation is required with this option. Each presenter should talk for 12 minutes.

**Due date**: Essays are due: Wednesday, October 30 by 3pm. A hard copy needs to be submitted, along with the electronic copy (which will be run through turnitin).

For each essay topic, students must find *at least one article or book relevant to the topic that is not on the syllabus* and discuss it in the essay, along with other materials. You should select materials that you believe help answer the question well or help you progress your own arguments towards answering the question well, and you should indicate clearly how they do so. Hints on how to search for good research materials will be given in class and tutorials. You might start with the search function in the database, PhilPapers, available here: <https://philpapers.org/>

Help with essay writing will be given during our sessions on Fridays. You are strongly encouraged to attend all of these sessions to reinforce your learning in this course and to ensure you get credit for your class contributions.

Essays handed in less than one week later than the due date will be penalized by 5 percent. Essays more than one week late and less than two weeks late are penalized at 10 percent. **No essays will be accepted more than two weeks late**, unless an extension has been granted by the lecturer prior to the due date. (Extensions are rare to get, but may be given in exceptional circumstances.)