

**Political Science 4710/5710**  
**Ethics of War**  
**Fall 2016**

**Course Description:** There has been a long, intellectual tradition in thinking about the moral justification of war, ranging at least from Thomas Aquinas's writings in the 13<sup>th</sup> century to Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars* to contemporary work by Jeff McMahan and others. The tradition draws distinctions between the justice of war itself (*jus ad bellum*), restrictions on our conduct within war (*jus in bello*), and our obligations following the conclusion of war (*jus post bellum*).

The contemporary advent of terrorism arguably challenges central tenets of this just war tradition, replacing the doctrine of preemption with that of prevention, blurring the distinction between civilians and combatants, accelerating both the speed and potential damage of attacks, and so on. How, if at all, should these features of terrorism lead to a revision of just war principles? Finally, consider modern military technologies, including weaponry, robotics, drones, cyber, and warfighter enhancement. Do these alter the state of play such that traditional just war principles become displaced? Or can these principles accommodate novel technologies?

**Professor:** Dr. Fritz Allhoff  
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Thursday 12:00-2:00 (EST) by phone; Skype by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Mr. Jonathan Milgrim  
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Monday-Thursday 12:00-1:00 (EST) by phone; Skype by appointment

**Website:** [wyologin.uwyo.edu](http://wyologin.uwyo.edu)

**Texts:** Fritz Allhoff, *Terrorism, Ticking Time-Bombs, and Torture* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012) (required)

Helen Frowe, *The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London: Routledge, 2015) (required).

Fritz Allhoff, Nicholas G. Evans, and Adam Henschke (eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Ethics and War: Just War Theory in the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Routledge, 2013) (optional).

Other readings will be made available from the course site.

**Grading Scale:**

The University of Wyoming in Fall 2014 implemented a new grading system that allows instructors, *at their discretion*, to award plus and minus grades as well as the standard letter grades of A, B, C, D, and F. This policy is detailed in UW Regulation 6-722: <http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/files/docs/uw-reg-6-722.pdf>. Due to other University and College policies linked to students' grade point averages and to minimum performance required in particular classes. This course uses a standard scale: >92% = A; 90-92% = A-; 88%-90% = B+; 82%-88% = B; 80%-82% = B-; 78%-80% = C+; 72%-78% = C; 70%-72% = C-; 68%-70% = D+; 62%-68% = D; 60%-62% = D-; <60% = E. In unusual cases, there will be a (small) curve, but that will not be known until calculation of final grades. There are no extra credit opportunities.

**Grading—Undergraduate Students:**

|                         |                            |                         |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Multiple Choice Quizzes | 20 pts/module * 15 modules | 300 pts                 |
| Short Answer Questions  | 30 pts/module * 15 modules | 450 pts                 |
| Discussion Forums       | 20 pts/module * 15 modules | 300 pts                 |
| Final Paper             |                            | 450 pts                 |
|                         | <b>Total:</b>              | <b><u>1,500 pts</u></b> |

**Grading—Graduate Students:**

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Multiple Choice Quizzes | 20 pts/module * 15 modules | 300 pts                 |
| Short Essay Questions   | 30 pts/module * 15 modules | 450 pts                 |
| Discussion Forums       | 20 pts/module * 15 modules | 300 pts                 |
| Final Paper             |                            | 950 pts                 |
|                         | <b>Total:</b>              | <b><u>2,000 pts</u></b> |

**Readings:** For each module, complete the assigned video and readings (see below). Reading in political philosophy is *very* difficult, both because political philosophers often write technically and because the questions they seek to answer are not always ones with which we are familiar. It is therefore of critical importance that you invest heavily in the reading, both by going slowly and, sometimes, by going through it more than once. Understanding the reading is the key to success in this course.

**Quizzes:** For each module, you will complete a multiple choice quiz and short essay questions. The multiple choice quiz comprises ten questions—each worth two points—and has an allowance of thirty minutes. There are three short essay questions—each worth ten points—that have a combined allowance of ninety minutes. Short essay questions should be answered in two to three paragraphs each; that said, use your judgment on what sort of detail is required. You may use the text for both the multiple choice quiz and the short essay questions, but, because of the time limits, should prepare before you begin.

Quizzes open at 12:00 a.m. on Monday and close at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday. Note that they must be *completed* (i.e., not just started) by the expiration times. Also note that the correct answers do not display until after the quiz *closes* (i.e., not when you complete it).

**Discussion Forums:** For each module, you should make a post reacting to either the theme of that module or to particular readings within it. These posts should be *no fewer than 100 words*. You should also *respond* to at least two different posts from your classmates; you should generally reply to the original post, but may engage themes emergent in the discussion thread as well. These responses should be *no fewer than 50 words*. Your original post is worth 10 points and your reply posts are worth 5 points each.

The original posts must be submitted no later than Thursday at 11:59 p.m. during the module's release period; the response posts must be submitted by the close of the module on Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

**Journal Entries:** Quizzes *cannot be re-opened for any reason*, nor can they be made available beyond the release dates provided below. However, with the understanding that personal exigencies or technical difficulties sometimes arise, a missed module—comprising the multiple choice quiz and short answer questions—can be replaced with a *journal entry of 1,000 words ( $\pm 10\%$ )*, worth fifty points. Journal entries can also be used to *replace* modules *after* the quizzes (or some part thereof) are attempted. These journal entries should engage the reading assignment for the module and be *half exegetical* and *half analytical*. They are due within a week of the close of the module that it services, and late submissions will not be accepted. Journal entries should be submitted through Blackboard under the "Assignments/Papers and Journals" link and not sent by email.

No more than two journal entries are allowed; any more misses will result in a zero for the module. No module for which a journal entry is submitted can serve as the basis for the final paper (see below). Blackboard cannot automatically replace modules with journal entries—I have to do this manually at the end of the semester—so do not worry if it still looks like you have a zero for a missed module.

**Final Paper—Undergraduate Students:** By the end of the course, you will write a final paper on some module of your choosing. It should be *2,500 words ( $\pm 10\%$ )*; deviations from this range will be penalized. You should spend approximately half of the paper *summarizing* the key ideas from the module, and the other half *evaluating* those ideas. (Do not discuss *all* of the ideas in the module, but rather choose *some* ideas and develop a coherent and integrated essay around them.)

In addition to the textbook, you must have *at least five external sources* that you incorporate into your paper, and *at least ten footnotes*. Use whatever footnote format you are most comfortable with and include a bibliography at the end of the paper. Try to use authoritative, peer-reviewed sources as opposed to only websites. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source, though you may use it to get suggestions for other sources.

Because final grades are due immediately following the end of the course, *late papers will not be accepted*. Papers should be submitted through under the "Assignments/Papers and Journals" link and not sent by email.

**Final Paper—Graduate Students:** By the end of the course, you will write a final paper on some topic of your choosing. It should be *5,000 words ( $\pm 10\%$ )*; deviations from this range will be penalized. No more than one third of the paper should be *exegetical* and at least two thirds of the paper should *develop original argumentation*.

In addition to the textbook, you must have *at least ten external sources* that you incorporate into your paper, and *at least twenty footnotes*; the majority of your sources should be scholarly (e.g., books, peer-review journals, etc.). Use whatever footnote format you are most comfortable with and include a bibliography at the end of the paper. Wikipedia is not an acceptable source, though you may use it to get suggestions for other sources.

Because final grades are due immediately following the end of the course, *late papers will not be accepted*. Papers should be submitted through Blackboard under the "Assignments/Papers and Journals" link and not sent by email.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Strict adherence to UW Regulation 6-802 will be followed, and any instances of dishonesty will be punished according to university policy.

**University Disability Support Services:** It is university of Wyoming policy to accommodate students, faculty, staff, and visitors with disabilities. If you have a physical, learning, sensory, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with university disability support services (UDSS) in the student educational opportunity offices, room 330 Knight Hall, and provide UDSS with documentation of your disability.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

| MODULE | TOPIC  | OPENS | CLOSES | READINGS   |
|--------|--|-------|--------|--|
| 1      | Introduction to Ethics of War                          | 8/29  | 9/4    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Green: <a href="#">War &amp; Human Nature: Crash Course World History</a> (Video)</li> <li>BBC: <a href="#">Article on Just War Theory</a></li> <li>Frowe: Chapter 2</li> </ul>  |
| 2      | <i>Jus ad Bellum</i>                                   | 9/5   | 9/11   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael Walzer: <a href="#">Was War in Iraq Just?</a> (Video)</li> <li>David Coates: <a href="#">Weighing the Arguments on U.S. Military Actions Against ISIS</a></li> <li>Frowe: Chapter 3</li> </ul>                                |
| 3      | Pre-Emption, Prevention, and Humanitarian Intervention | 9/12  | 9/18   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dan Boyle: <a href="#">The Bush Doctrine</a> (Video)</li> <li>BBC: <a href="#">Rwanda Genocide: 100 Days of Slaughter</a></li> <li>Frowe: Chapter 4</li> </ul>  |
| 4      | <i>Jus in Bello</i>                                    | 9/19  | 9/25   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Rodin: <a href="#">Ethics of War &amp; Conflict</a> (Video)</li> <li><i>New York Times</i>: <a href="#">Israel Polarized over Soldier Who Killed Wounded Palestinian</a></li> <li>Frowe: Chapters 5 &amp; 6</li> </ul>          |
| 5      | <i>Jus post Bellum</i>                                 | 9/26  | 10/2   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brian Orend: <a href="#">"Justice After War: Toward a New Geneva Convention"</a> (Video: 36'-52')</li> <li>Carsten Stahn <i>et al.</i>: <a href="#">Jus Post Bellum and the Ethics of Peace</a></li> <li>Frowe: Chapter 12</li> </ul> |
| 6      | What Is Terrorism?                                     | 10/3  | 10/9   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Test Tube News: <a href="#">What Is Terrorism?</a> (Video)</li> <li>ABC News: <a href="#">How Do You Define Terrorism?</a></li> <li>Allhoff: Chapter 1</li> </ul>   |

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|----|--------------------------------|-------|-------|---|
| 7  | The Moral Status of Terrorism  | 10/10 | 10/16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stanford: <a href="#">What Causes Terrorism?</a> (Video)</li> <li>Eylon Aslan-Levy: <a href="#">Violence Against Soldiers Is Terrorism</a></li> <li>Allhoff: Chapter 2</li> </ul>  |
| 8  | Terrorism and Just War         | 10/17 | 10/23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michael McGowan: <a href="#">Ethics, War and Terrorism</a> (Video)</li> <li>John Yoo: <a href="#">Terrorist Have No Geneva Rights</a></li> <li>Allhoff: § 3.1</li> <li>Frowe: Chapter 10 (pp. 205-211 only)</li> </ul>                                 |
| 9  | Torture and Ticking Time-Bombs | 10/24 | 10/30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CNN: <a href="#">The Torture Debate</a> (Video)</li> <li>Conor Friedersdorf: <a href="#">Torture, Ticking Time Bombs, and Waterboarding Americans</a></li> <li>Allhoff: §§ 4.1, 4.3, Chapter 6</li> </ul>  |
| 10 | Torture and the Real World     | 10/31 | 11/6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">John Yoo on the Daily Show</a> (Video; watch parts 1 &amp; 2)</li> <li>John Yoo: <a href="#">If the Torture Report Is True, CIA Officers Are at Legal Risk</a></li> <li>Allhoff: §§ 7.1-7.4, Chapter 8</li> </ul>                          |
| 11 | Non-Lethal Weapons             | 11/7  | 11/13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stephen Coleman: <a href="#">Non-Lethal Weapons, A Moral Hazard?</a> (Video)</li> <li>Allhoff: <a href="#">The Paradox of Non-Lethal Weapons</a></li> <li>Michael Gross: <a href="#">Shooting to Stun: The Paradox of Nonlethal Warfare</a></li> </ul> |
| 12 | Military Robots                | 11/14 | 11/20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TDC: <a href="#">Future Military Robots</a> (Video)</li> <li>Tia Ghose: <a href="#">Ban Killer Robots Before They Take Over</a></li> <li>UNIDIR: <a href="#">The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies</a></li> </ul>                  |

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|-----|---------------------|--|-------|---|
| 13  | Drones              | 11/21                                      | 11/27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Berkley Center: <a href="#">Michael Walzer on Whether Drones Should Be Banned</a> (Video)</li> <li>• Patrick Lin: <a href="#">Drone-Ethics Briefing: What a Leading Robot Expert Told the CIA</a></li> <li>• Frowe: Chapter 11</li> </ul>  |
| 14  | Cyberwarfare        | 11/28                                      | 12/4  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thomas Rid: <a href="#">Cyberwar: Does it Exist?</a> (Video)</li> <li>• Fritz Allhoff <i>et al.</i>: <a href="#">Is It Possible to Wage a Just Cyberwar?</a></li> <li>• Randall Dipert: <a href="#">The Ethics of Cyberwarfare</a></li> </ul>  |
| 15  | Soldier Enhancement | 12/5                                       | 12/11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bloomberg: <a href="#">Lockheed's Bionic Exoskeleton a Super-Human Reality</a> (Video)</li> <li>• Patrick Lin: <a href="#">More Than Human?: The Ethics of Biologically Enhancing Soldiers</a></li> <li>• Fritz Allhoff <i>et al.</i>: <a href="#">Ethics of Human Enhancement: 25 Questions &amp; Answers</a> (pp. 5-38)</li> </ul> |
| N/A |                     | <b>Final Paper due 12/11 by 11:59 p.m.</b> |       |   |