

ETHICS OF WAR AND PEACE, PHIL 2840, WINTER 2012

Instructor: Emily Muller, Department of Philosophy

Office: 340 University College, Office Hours Tuesday 1:00-2:30 and by appointment

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Class meeting: T, Th at 10:00 in room 386 University College

Our aim is to read and study some of the most influential texts in the history of human thinking about the ethics of war and the potential for peace. This semester, students will read primary work by a range of philosophical writing about war from ancient times to the present. Lectures will focus on clarifying key arguments in those readings and relating them, when possible, to one another and to contemporary concerns about the nature of justice and politics. Class time will be divided between lectures and discussion.

Required Texts: These texts are available at the University of Manitoba Bookstore.

The Ethics of War: Classic and Contemporary Readings by Gregory M. Reichberg, Henrik Syse and Endre Begby

The Sorrow of War, a novel by Bao Ninh (to be covered at the end of the semester)

Note: I may make some additional reading material available to students electronically.

Breakdown of Assignments:

7 x 7% Short Writing Assignments. Throughout the semester, 10 writing assignments will be assigned, of which students are responsible for completing 7. (49%)

Midterm exam, in class: 15%

Final Exam, Take home essay test due during exam period: 25%

Class participation, including attendance and preparedness for class discussion: 11%

Schedule of Readings and Assignments for January and February:

Week 1: introduction; Week 2, January 10 and 12: Reading 1: Thucydides and 2: Plato

Week 3: January 17 and 19: 3: Aristotle and 7: Augustine

Week 4: January 24 and 26: 8, 13 and 16: Aquinas

Week 5: January 31 and February 2: 23: Machiavelli and 24: More and 32: Grotius

February 9 and 11: 33. Hobbes, 36. Locke and 46. Mill

Additional Schedule to be announced mid January

Students are required by the Department to retain a copy of each assignment submitted to their instructors. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, academic dishonesty, academic fraud, cheating and examination impersonation in the University of Manitoba General Calendar. (You don't really want to cheat in a class that is largely about human beings' capacity to follow moral rules. Even if I don't catch you, and I probably will, it will dog you for the rest of your life.)