

Global Ethics

Dr. Sarit Smila Sened

Fall Semester 2023

Instructor Contact Information: Sarits@tauex.tau.ac.il

Office Hours: available by appointment (email to set up time)

Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to examine central issues in global ethics. We will start by exploring the theoretical debate surrounding the idea of the national state as opposed to cosmopolitan ideas in an era of globalization. We will then proceed to examine the most pressing global issues of our time such as terrorism, immigration, climate change and more.

Course Requirements and Expectations

students are expected to have carefully read the assigned readings prior to the class meeting in which they are to be discussed, and are expected to participate in discussions regarding the materials. An essential part of this course is critical thought and discussion of philosophical issues – that is, doing philosophy, not just reading about it. Note that a crucial part of participation involves respect for other people in the class and for their views.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the semester you would be able to identify and analyze key features of the prevalent ethical debates in global ethics. You would be able to understand the underline mechanisms and ideas that lie at the basis of most of the disagreements regarding the different ways we can use to deal with global challenges.

Evaluation Criteria

Final paper 5-6 pages (60%), Midterm Exam (20%), attendance and participation (20%)



Course Schedule

Week 1: Liberal Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism

David Miller, "The Ethical Significance of Nationality"

<http://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/David-Miller-The-Ethical-Significance-of-Nationality.pdf>

David Held, "Democracy: From City-States to Cosmopolitan Order?"

(text posted on moodle)

Week 2: Just and Unjust war

David Luban, "Just War and Human Rights"

<https://koppa.jyu.fi/en/courses/134525/spring-2014/luban-just-war-and-human-rights>

Michael Waltzer, "The Moral Standing of States: A Response to Four Critics"

[https://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/Walzer%27s Reply to Critics.pdf](https://people.brandeis.edu/~teuber/Walzer%27s_Reply_to_Critics.pdf)

Week 3: Terrorism and Torture

Alan Dershowitz "Should the Ticking Bomb be Tortured?"

(text posted on moodle)

Michael Waltzer "Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses"

(text posted on moodle)

Week 4: Hunger and Poverty

Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"

<https://rintintin.colorado.edu/~vancecd/phil308/Singer2.pdf>

Garrett Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor"

<http://web.ntpu.edu.tw/~language/course/research/lifeboat.pdf>

Week 5: Review and Midterm



Week 6: Immigration and Refugees

Christopher Heath Wellman, "Immigration and Freedom of Association"

(text posted on moodle)

Sarah Fina, "Freedom of Association is Not the Answer"

<http://www.mit.edu/~shaslang/mprg/SFineFANA.pdf>

Week 7: Human Trafficking

Grace Robertson "The Injustice of Sex Trafficking and the Efficacy of Legislation"

<http://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1047&context=globaltides>

Budiani-Saberi and Delmonico "Organ Trafficking and Transplant Tourism: A Commentary on the Global Realities"

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/share/VBRR5WTAYEUWIC9Y9FSP?target=10.1111/j.1600-6143.2008.02200.x>

Week 8: Women and Culture

Uma Narayan "Cross-Cultural Connections, Border-Crossings, and 'Death by Culture': Thinking about Dowry-Murders in India and Domestic-Violence Murders in the United States"

<https://hamtramckfreeschool.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/narayan-uma-crosscultural-connections-bordercrossings-and-death-by-culture.pdf>

Susan Moller Okin "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?"

<http://pscourses.ucsd.edu/ps108/2%20Gender%20Equality%20and%20Multiculturalism/Okin%201999%20-%20Is%20Multiculturalism%20Bad%20for%20Women.pdf>

Week 9: Economic Justice

Hillel Steiner, "Just Taxation and International Redistribution"

(text posted on moodle)

Michael Blake, "Distributive Justice, State Coercion, and Autonomy"

(text posted on moodle)

Week 10: Climate Change

Peter Singer "Ethics and Climate Change: A Commentary on MacCracken, Toman, and Gardiner"

(text posted on moodle)

Sinnott-Armstrong "It's not my Fault": Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations



<https://rintintin.colorado.edu/~vancecd/phil308/Armstrong.pdf>

Week 11: Review and Concluding remarks

Final Paper Due by 20:00

Course Readings

Global Ethics: Seminal essays, Horton and Pogge (Eds.)

Additional Readings available on moodle

Instructor Biography

Dr. Sarit Smila Sened received her Ph.D in Philosophy in 2009 from Washington University in St. Louis where she also taught until 2013 when she moved back to Israel. She is teaching since then at the Bob Shapell School of Social Work and at Tau International. She specializes in Ethics and moral education.

TAU International Academic Guidelines

Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student's home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. **Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.**

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in



English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

In-Class Exams

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student's responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

TAU International Absence Policy

Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor's note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#).

