

# The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense

Fall 2018

## Instructor

Eric Sampson  
Email: [trae@live.unc.edu](mailto:trae@live.unc.edu)  
Office: Caldwell 210D  
Office Hours: T, R (9:15-10:15am) or by appt.

## Meeting Details

Days: T, R  
Time: 8:00 – 9:15am  
Place: Caldwell 105  
Course: Phil/Poli/Pwad 272

## Course Description

“War is hell”, William Tecumseh Sherman famously said. Seems right. After all, war often results in the shooting, burning, maiming, imprisoning, and perhaps torturing of thousands, even millions, of people on either side. This course considers a range of ethical questions associated with war and armed conflict. Among them are: If war is hell, is it ever morally OK to go to war? If so, under what conditions? Once we’re in a war, are there any tactics that are morally off limits (e.g., torturing prisoners to extract crucial information, bombing civilians to compel governments to surrender, using drones to assassinate terrorists without a trial, starving the enemy by siege)? If one side is using child soldiers, should the other side fight back? What (if anything) is owed to war refugees, and who is responsible for providing it? Should we intervene to protect citizens of other countries whose governments are killing them, or is that none of our business? Finally, does morality even apply in wartime, or is the old saying correct that “All’s fair in love and war”?

## Texts

- [\*The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction\*](#), by Helen Frowe (ISBN: 0415724813)
- All other readings are available on Sakai under the “Resources” tab.

## Course Requirements

- |                       |     |                                 |
|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|
| • Ethical Theory Quiz | 10% | Date: Tues., Sep. 4 (in class)  |
| • Participation       | 10% |                                 |
| • Reading Quizzes     | 15% |                                 |
| • Exam 1 (5 pp.)      | 20% | Due: Sun., Sep. 30 (11:59pm)    |
| • Exam 2 (in class)   | 25% | Date: Tues., Oct. 30 (in class) |
| • Exam 3 (5 pp.)      | 20% | Due: Thu., Dec. 13 (11:59pm)    |

## **Participation**

Participation begins by reading the assigned readings carefully. If no one reads, we have nothing to talk about. Second, you'll have to contribute to class discussion by asking questions or making comments. Some people are shy. I get that. Shy people can either rack up their participation points on the back half of the semester once they become more comfortable with the class setting, or by coming to office hours, or by chatting with me about course material over email or after class. Making lots of comments in class is not the only (or even the best) way to receive a good participation grade. Quality matters too. The best thing to do is strike a nice balance between quality and quantity. Sometimes you'll say stuff that doesn't quite make sense. That's fine. Philosophy is hard, and you're allowed to struggle. It means you're trying. So contribute even if you're not 100% clear about what's going on.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is expected. You can miss three (3) meetings without any notice and without penalty. Each absence beyond those three will result in a 2-point deduction from your participation grade.

## **Grading Scale**

A: 94 – 100    A-: 90 – 93    B+: 87 – 89    B: 84 – 86    B-: 80 – 83    C+: 77 – 79  
C: 74 – 76    C-: 70 – 73    D+: 67 – 69    D: 64 – 66    D-: 60 – 63    F: < 60

## **Office Hours & Accessibility**

I'm happy to meet with you at any time to discuss assignments or simply to talk more about the topics of the class. Come to my office hours, or if those times don't work, email me to set up an appointment.

I'm committed to making class fully accessible regardless of disabilities. If I can do anything to help make the class more accessible to you, let me know, or (if you would prefer) have the Accessibility Office contact me on your behalf.

## **Plagiarism**

Don't plagiarize. According to UNC, plagiarism is "deliberate or reckless representation of another's words, thoughts, or ideas as one's own without attribution in connection with submission of academic work, whether graded or otherwise." If you quote something, you need to put it in quotes and cite it using whichever citation convention you like. If you use someone's ideas, you must cite them and put the idea in your own words. If you break these rules, deliberately or not, you'll go to Honor Court. If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, talk to me.

## **Basic Ethical Theory**

Week 1 | Aug. 21, 23      Intros, Syllabus, Course Overview (no reading)  
Shafer-Landau, “Consequentialism: Nature & Attractions”

Week 2 | Aug. 28, 30      Shafer-Landau, “Consequentialism: Its Difficulties”  
Shafer-Landau, “Pluralism and Absolute Moral Rules”

## **Pacifism**

Week 3 | Sep. 4, 6      Russell, “The Ethics of War”  
Narveson, “Pacifism: A Philosophical Analysis”

## **Self-Defense**

Week 4 | Sep. 11, 13      Ch. 1: Self-Defense

## **Just War Theory: Jus ad bellum**

Week 5 | Sep. 18, 20      Ch. 3: The Conditions of *Jus ad Bellum*

Week 6 | Sep. 25, 27      Ch. 4: Just Wars? (Preemption, Prevention, Intervention)

## **Just War Theory: Jus in bello**

Week 7 | Oct. 2, 4      Ch. 5: The Conditions of *Jus in Bello*

Week 8 | Oct. 9, 11      Ch. 6: The Moral Status of Combatants

Week 9 | Oct. 16      Ch. 7: Non-Combatant Immunity

Week 10 | Oct. 23, 25      Ch. 8: Challenges to Non-Combatant Immunity

## **Terrorism**

Week 11 | Oct. 30, Nov. 1      In-class exam  
Ch. 9: Terrorism

Week 12 | Nov. 6, 8      Ch. 10: Torture  
Ch. 11: Remote Warfare (Drones)

## **Refugees**

Week 13 | Nov. 13, 15      Huemer, “Is There a Right to Immigrate?”  
Wellman, “Immigration and Freedom of Association”

## **Guns**

Week 14 | Nov. 20

McMahan “Gun ‘Control’ is Not Enough”  
[McMahan on Gun Control \(Philosophy Bites Podcast\)](#)

Week 15 | Nov. 27, 29

Huemer, “Is There a Right to Own a Gun?”

Week 16 | Dec. 4

Review and Course Wrap-Up