

## Provisional Draft:

This outline gives a sense of how the course will be structured, but **details may change. This is not the final, official outline.**

PHIL 235 A01  
Fall 2024 CRN 12624  
**Ethics of War, Violence and Terrorism**

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Office Hours  
Mondays & Thursdays 1 pm-2 pm

### Course Description

This course engages with contemporary approaches to and selected topics in the ethics of war and other forms of political violence. The material covered in this course includes case studies and descriptions of experiences of war, group-based violence and other human rights abuses. For this reason you should be prepared to engage with difficult and disturbing materials.

### Texts

- Adil Ahmad Haque, *Law and Morality at War* (Oxford, 2017). **(HAQUE)**
- Laura Sjoberg *Gender, Justice and the Wars in Iraq: A Feminist Reformulation of Just War Theory* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006) **(SJOBERG)**
- Brightspace Coursepack **(BCP)**
  - C.A.J Coady, "The Idea of Violence" in *Morality and Political Violence*. Cambridge University Press: 2008, pp. 21-42.
  - Laurie Nathan, "'The Four Horseman of the Apocalypse': The Structural Causes of Crisis and Violence in Africa", *Peace & Change* 25: 2 (April 2000), 188-207.
  - Christine Sylvester, "War as Physical Experience" in *War as Experience*. Routledge: 2013, pp. 65-86.
  - Uwe Steinhoff, "What is War – and Can a Lone Individual Wage One?" in *The Ethics of War and the Force of Law: A Modern Just War Theory*. Routledge: 2021, pp. 12-30.
  - Kam-por Yu, "Confucian Views on War as Seen in the Gongyang Commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals", *Dao: a Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, 9:1 (2010), 97–111.
  - Yi-Ming Yu, "Military ethics of Xunzi: Confucianism confronts war", *Comparative Strategy*, 35:4 (2016), 260-273.
  - Seth Lazar, "War" in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/war/> , published 3 May 2016
  - Jeff McMahan, "The Morality of War and the Law of War" in *Just and Unjust Warriors: The Moral and Legal Status of Soldiers*, D. Rodin and H. Shue, eds. Oxford University Press: 2008, pp 19-43.
  - Eric Joseph Ritter, "Drone Warfare and the Principle of Discrimination" in *Cambridge Handbook of Just War*, L. May, ed. Cambridge University Press: 2018, pp.
  - Michael Robillard, "The 'Killer Robots' Are Us", [The New York Times](#) January 29, 2018, Opinion Section, *The Stone*
  - Christiane Wilke, "High Altitude Legality: Visuality and Jurisdiction in the Adjudication of NATO Air Strikes", *Canadian Journal of Law and Society* 34:2 (2019)
  - Frederick Schneider and Tilman Brück, "The Economics of Counterterrorism: A Survey" *Journal of Economic Surveys* 29:1 (2015), 131-157.

Evaluation

Quizzes	2.5%
-5 @ 0.5%; graded pass/fail	
-dates posted in Brightspace	
1-page reflection relating readings to current events	7.5%
-5 @ 1.5%; graded out of 10	
-due Thursdays at 11:59 pm	
-must use news report or op-ed no more than 6 months old and readings from the week in which reflection is completed	
Take-Home Assignments (3 in total)	60%
-open book	
-combination of short answer and essay questions	
Assignment #1 available Sep 26, due Sep 30 -- @ 20%	
Assignment #2 available Oct 25, due Oct 28 -- @ 25%	
Assignment #3 available Nov 28, due Dec 2 -- @ 15%	
6-8 page (1500-2000 words) paper	30%
Assignment sheet available Sep 12, due Dec 12	