PHIL 310: Global Justice  
Philosophy | Allegheny College  
MWF 9:00AM-9:50AM  
Oddfellows 206  
Spring 2016

Dr. Tal Correm  
Office: Oddfellows 116  
Office hours: MWF 10:00-11:00AM, MW1:00-2PM, F 1:30-2:30PM; and by appointment.  
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Course Overview:
An examination of the difficulties facing the ideals of democracy, international aid and development as global and multicultural movements. We consider the justice of such institutions from the perspectives of international responsibilities and local self-determination.  
Prerequisite: PHIL 140 or PHIL 210 or permission of the instructor.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
  • Acquire skills to read, interpret, and evaluate philosophical texts.  
  • Develop your skills to think critically about philosophical issues and argue your point in discussion with others and in writing.  
  • Understand and develop critical reflection on some of the central issues, problems, and arguments on global justice, human rights, and political violence.

Course Materials:
  • Other required and recommended readings, interactive, audio and visual materials will be available online, through the Sakai course website.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:
  • **Summary of Assignments**  
    o Class Participation: 20 points  
    o Think Piece Assignments: 10 points  
    o Group Project: 10 points  
    o First Paper: 15 points  
    o Second Paper: 20 points  
    o Final Paper: 25 points

  • **Class Participation:**  
    o Participation is based upon active involvement in discussion and group work, engaged reading and preparing for class, answering questions when called upon, and attendance (see the Attendance guidelines below). You have to complete the required readings for each session, bring the assigned reading to class, and write down at least two questions for classroom discussion.
• A grading rubric for Class Participation will be provided on Sakai.
• In addition, everyone must post at least one comment or question on the Rwanda Live Blog to be found here: https://rwanda2016.wordpress.com/

• Think Piece Assignments:
  o *Think piece*: a piece of writing meant to be thought-provoking and speculative that consists chiefly of background material and personal opinion and analysis. (www.merriam-webster.com)
  o These will take a variety of forms. Some will be in-class short writing assignments that will require familiarity and reflection on the assigned reading for the week. You must bring the assigned reading for the week and your notes and questions about the reading to class, as some written assignments will be open note/book. Other will require participation in activities or events outside the classroom. Think Piece Assignments will be both announced and unannounced. Announced assignments will be posted on Sakai and/or on the Course Schedule below. You need to submit 5 Think Piece assignments out of 7 throughout the semester.

• Group Project:
  o Each of you will be assigned to a group of 2-3 students, based on interest in the group project. Your group project will consist of presenting the assigned reading to your classmates in a way that is concise and engaging and your group will also be responsible for leading the discussion and analysis of that reading. On the day that your group project is due you will need to 1) distribute to the class a handout that includes the main points you want to address and discussion questions, and 2) submit a copy on Sakai.
  o More detailed instructions, and a rubric will be found on Sakai.

• Papers:
  o You will write **two short papers** in which you will address questions that require an analysis of the problems we learned and discussed. At the end of the semester, you will revise, integrate, and build upon one of these two short papers for one longer **final paper**.
  o Specific questions and a grading rubric will be provided on Sakai and discussed in class closer to the dates on which they are due. See the papers DUE dates on the Course Schedule below.

At the end of the course letter grades will be assigned approximately according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 or higher</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63 or higher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68 or higher</td>
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Course Policies:

• **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Attendance is necessary to maintain your participation grade. Arrive and be prepared by the beginning of the class. Tardiness, leaving early, or texting will affect participation for that day. I allow three missed classes without penalty; however, there will be a 3 points reduction in your overall grade for every additional day missed. You have three days to miss for any reason, including sickness, sports, travel, family emergencies, etc. For example, if your final grade is a 90 (A-) but you missed four classes, then your final grade is 87 (B). I will be taking attendance each class, but it is your responsibility to keep track of your own absences. If you cannot attend class please send me an email ahead of time and get in touch with another student for notes or discussion.
in order to be prepared for the next class you attend. If you are an athlete or you have a religious holiday, which will require your absence, please tell me at the beginning of the semester

- **Course Website on Sakai:** We will use Sakai for our course schedule, assignment submission, grades, required texts and additional materials.
- **Lateness:** It is important for all of us to be working on the same material at the same time. The assignments are central to class participation therefore they will be marked down a full letter grade for every day they are late (first day late from an A to a B etc.). If for some reason you cannot complete an assignment it is your responsibility to notify me in advance and to provide proper documentation. Technical issues are not acceptable excuses for late work.
- **Cell Phones and other Electronic Devices:** Cell phones must be turned off for class. Laptops or other electronic devices can be used only for class materials and taking notes. Class disruptions from cell phones, laptop, or other electronic devices will negatively impact your participation grade for the day. Again, cell phone must be turned off.
- **Communication:** Check your Allegheny e-mail regularly. Class announcements such as updates, cancellations or assignment changes will be communicated by e-mail and/or Sakai. When you email me (tcorrem@allegheny.edu) please type “PHIL310” followed by a brief description of the email's topic in the subject area. In general, I will respond to emails within 24 hours. Although I often check email during the weekend, I cannot guarantee that I will respond to emails sent over the weekend.
- **Academic Conduct:** It is crucial that everyone be very respectful of each other in class. Counterarguments are always welcome, and in fact are encouraged; but when we disagree it is important to do so in a productive manner.
- **Caveat:** I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, schedule, and grading schema as the circumstances dictate. Any significant changes will be relayed to you in advance.

Resources:

- **Allegheny’s Learning Commons**
The Maytum Learning Commons is located in Pelletier Library. Drop-in consultation hours are from 3-5pm and 7-11pm Sunday through Thursday. You may stop by the Learning Commons at any time to meet with a consultant on a first-come, first-served basis, or you may schedule an appointment at your convenience using our [online scheduling service](http://sites.allegheny.edu/learningcommons/writing/handouts-and-resources-for-writers/).

Handouts and resources for writers are available here: [http://sites.allegheny.edu/learningcommons/writing/](http://sites.allegheny.edu/learningcommons/writing/).

Find more information here: [http://sites.allegheny.edu/learningcommons/writing/](http://sites.allegheny.edu/learningcommons/writing/).

- **Philosophy and Global Justice Resources:**
  - Philosopher's Index through the Library Website: [http://library.allegheny.edu/databases](http://library.allegheny.edu/databases).
  - Encyclopedia of Global Justice.

**Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. I expect you to follow the Allegheny honor code and I will report all suspected cases of academic dishonesty to the Honor Code Committee. Please see the college policy on plagiarism at: [http://webpub.allegheny.edu/dept/writingcenter/Links/plagiarism.htm](http://webpub.allegheny.edu/dept/writingcenter/Links/plagiarism.htm). If you have any questions about plagiarism, please come see me.
Statement on Disability: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Services at (814) 332-2898. Disability Services is part of the Learning Commons and is located in Pelletier Library. Please do this as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

Extenuating Circumstances: If you should find yourself in difficult circumstances that significantly interfere with your ability to prepare for this class and to complete assignments, please inform me immediately so that we can work something out together. Do not wait until the last day of class to ask for exceptions to what is stated in this syllabus. In such a situation, you may also find it helpful to contact the campus Counseling Center (332-4368) in 304 Reis Hall.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:
You are expected to have read the assigned materials before class and bring the assigned texts to every class. Come prepared with questions and be ready to participate in discussions.

I. What is Global Justice?
Week 1 (January 20)
  W: Welcome and Course Overview.
  F: Gillian Brock, “Global Justice.”
    Omar Dahbour, “Radical Approaches to Global Justice: Is There a New Paradigm?”

Week 2 (January 25)

II. Global Conflict and Its Aftermath

Heather Widdows, “Global Conflict: War, Terrorism and Humanitarian Intervention.”

Week 3 (February 1)
  February 1: Deadline for Adding and Dropping
  [Ghosts of Rwanda](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ghosts/)
  Scott Straus, “Why Perpetrators Say They Committed Genocide”
  Joshua Kassner, from Rwanda and the Moral Obligation of Humanitarian Intervention.

Week 4 (February 8)
  M: Think Piece DUE: Monday, February 8 at 11:59PM.
  W: Discussion.

Week 5 (February 15)
  W: Virginia Held, from How Terrorism Is Wrong: Morality and Political Violence.
  F: Discussion.
III. Human Rights

Week 6 (February 22)
M: Michael Boylan, “Human Rights.”
United Nations, Universal Declaration of Human Rights
F: Serena Parekh, “Hannah Arendt and Global Justice.”

IV. Global Economic Issues

Week 7 (February 29)
M: Iris Marion Young, “Responsibility and Global Labor Justice.”
W: Young, continued.
F: Heather Widdows, “Global Poverty.”

Week 8 (March 7)
W: Mathias Risse, “What We Owe to the Global Poor.”
F: Arendt Circle: NO CLASS

Week 9 (March 14)
First Paper DUE: Monday, March 14 at 11:59 PM.

V. Global Gender Justice and The Capabilities Approach

M: Alison Jaggar, "‘Saving Amina’: Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue."
W: Carol Gould, “Conceptualizing Women’s Human Rights.”
F: Discussion.

March 19-27: Spring Break: NO CLASSES.

Week 10 (March 28)
M: Martha Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities: The Human Development Approach, 1-16, 46-58
W: Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities, 17-45
F: Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities, 58-68

Week 11 (April 4)
M: Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities, 70-112.
Tuesday, April 5: (Gator Day): “Reconciliation After Genocide Workshop.”
W: Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities, 113-122.
Thursday, April 7: Lewis Gordon, “Philosophy from Small Places.”
F: Nussbaum, Creating Capabilities, 166-189.
Think Piece DUE: Friday, April 8, at 11:59PM.
Week 12 (April 11)
Second Paper DUE: Monday, April 11 at 11:59 PM.

VI. Immigration

M: Boylan, Michael, “Immigrants and Refugees.”
F: Discussion.

Week 13 (April 18)

VII. Global Environmental Issues

M: Heather Widdows, “Global Environmental and Climate Ethics.”
W: Simon Caney, “Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change”
F: Discussion.

Week 14 (April 25)

VIII. Global Health Issues

M: Michael J. Selgelid, “Global Health Justice.”
W: Doris Schroeder, Thomas Pogge, Peter Singer, “Access to Life-Saving Medicines.”
F: Discussion.

Week 15 (May 2)

M: Review and Warp-up.
Tuesday, May 3: Last day of classes.

Final Paper DUE Thursday, May 5 at 9:00AM.