

Course Syllabus

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Global Ethics

Instructor: Professor Karen Kovaka

email: kkovaka@vt.edu (<mailto:kkovaka@vt.edu>)

office hours (virtual): Monday, 10-11:30am (and by appointment)

at <https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/5105662469> [.\(https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/5105662469\)](https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/5105662469)

Course Description:

In this class, you will learn about ethical issues on a planetary scale. How should we distribute resources across the globe and between countries? What are the obligations of rich nations to poor ones? Should people be able to immigrate to any country they choose? Are there ethical principles that apply across all cultures? What does ethical, global climate change policy look like? You will spend the semester considering different ways of answering these questions and building your own perspective.

Course Structure:

This is an online, asynchronous course. This means that you won't talk with your instructor in other classrooms. Instead, you will complete 6 different activities each week:

1. Read an assigned text.
2. Watch a video lecture.
3. Review notes (provided by the instructor) on the week's topic.
4. Test your comprehension of the assigned text with a quiz.
5. Write an intellectual journal entry, in which you reflect on what you've read.
6. Discuss the week's topic, in an online forum, with your fellow students.

If you complete each of these activities every week, you will probably get a good grade in the course! In addition to these activities, you will also complete a midterm and final exam. There are advantages and disadvantages to taking a philosophy class in an asynchronous online format. One thing you will miss is live discussion and interaction. However, the asynchronous format will encourage you to work independently and complete the readings, rather than rely on what you might pick up on in class. This is likely to give you a deeper understanding and insight into the issues. Additionally, the online discussion

forums can provide some good interaction with your fellow students, as a substitute for a live or synchronous class.

There is a module for each week of the course. Your assignments, reading, and all other content for the week will be available in that module.

I am happy to talk with you live, over Zoom during my office hours. If you plan to drop in, do let me know ahead of time. Or, email me (kkovaka@vt.edu (<mailto:kkovaka@vt.edu>)) to set up a different time to meet.

Evaluation:

- Quizzes: 20%
 - Due each Thursday by 11:59pm
 - Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester
- Intellectual Journals: 20%
 - Due each Friday by 11:59pm
 - These are graded complete/incomplete, and I will drop one incomplete at the end of the semester
- Discussion Forum Posts: 20%
 - Due each Friday by 11:59pm
 - These are graded complete/incomplete, and I will drop one incomplete at the end of the semester
- Midterm Exam: 20%
 - Due Friday, March 4 at 11:59pm
 - Exam will have multiple questions, which you will answer with ~100 word responses
 - Exam will be available 1 week before it is due; you may work on it whenever you want and for as long as you want during that week.
- Final Exam: 20% (due Wednesday, May 11 at 11:59pm)
 - Due Wednesday, March 11 at 11:59pm
 - Exam will have multiple questions, which you will answer with ~100 word responses
 - Exam will be available 1 week before it is due; you may work on it whenever you want and for as long as you want during that week.

Required Texts:

There are no required books for this course. All of the texts I assign are available on our Canvas site.

Accessibility:

We all learn differently, and I am committed to making this course accessible to everyone. Please come talk to me if some aspect of the course isn't working for you: we can collaborate on alternatives that suit your needs, interests, and learning style. If you have a disability (or think you might), it's also a good idea to contact Services for Students with Disabilities.

Late Work:

In general, I expect you to submit all coursework on time, and I may not accept late assignments. Failing to submit coursework on time can really affect your overall grade in the course.

At the same time, I understand that illness, unexpected circumstances, and other responsibilities can make it difficult or impossible to submit coursework on time. I am happy to work with you if you need extensions or other accommodations. But, it's really important that you are proactive about asking for the help you need! If you turn work in late, or not at all, for weeks in a row, and only ask me about accommodations near the end of the semester, I may not be able to do much for you. If you stay in contact with me, and especially ask for extensions *in advance* of assignment due dates (when that is possible), it is much easier for me to work something out.

Academic Integrity Statement:

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

“As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code. Academic integrity expectations are the same for online classes as they are for in person classes.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/> (<https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>)

Changes to the syllabus:


I may adjust the course readings and schedule as the semester goes along. It is your responsibility to pay attention to Canvas and your email so that you are aware of any changes.













Reading Schedule













Week 1 (Jan 18-21)	Topic: Introducing Global Ethics	Text: Kimberly Hutchings, <i>Global Ethics: An Introduction</i> (2 nd edition), chapter 1
Week 2 (Jan 24-28)	Topic: Philosophical Foundations I	Text: Kimberly Hutchings, <i>Global Ethics: An Introduction</i> (2 nd edition), chapter 2
Week 3 (Jan 31-Feb 4)	Topic: Philosophical Foundations II	Text: Kimberly Hutchings, <i>Global Ethics: An Introduction</i> (2 nd edition), chapter 3











Week 4 (Feb 7-11)	Topic: Global Poverty I— Introducing Global Poverty	Text: Hennie Lotter, "Poverty," from <i>The Routledge Handbook of Global Ethics</i> (chapter 13)
Week 5 (Feb 14-18)	Topic: Global Poverty II— Effective Altruism	Text: Iason Gabriel, "Effective Altruism and Its Critics"
Week 6 (Feb 21-25)	Topic: Global Poverty III— Global Distributive Justice	Text: Kimberly Hutchings, <i>Global Ethics: An Introduction</i> (2 nd edition), chapter 5
Week 7 (Feb 28-Mar 4)	Topic: Exploitation I— Sweatshops	Text: Jessica Flanigan, "Sweatshop Regulation and Workers' Choices"
Week 8 (Mar 14-18)	Topic: Exploitation II—Body Selling	Text: Teck Chuan Voo and Alistair Campbell, "Trade in Human Body Parts"
Week 9 (Mar 21-25)	Topic: Exploitation III— Multinationals and Financial Institutions	Text: Peter Singer, <i>One World Now</i> , chapter 3
Week 10 (Mar 28-Apr 1)	Topic: Borders and Immigration I	Text: Shelley Wilcox, "Immigration and Borders"
Week 11 (Apr 4-8)	Topic: Borders and Immigration II	Text: Allison Wolf, <i>Just Immigration in the Americas: A Feminist Account</i> , selections
Week 12 (Apr 11-15)	Topic: Cosmopolitanism	Text: Kok-Chor Tan, "Globalizing Cosmopolitanism"
Week 13 (Apr 18-22)	Topic: Decolonization	Text: Kimberly Hutchings, "Decolonizing Global Ethics: Thinking with the Pluriverse"
Week 14 (Apr 25-29)	Topic: Climate Change I	Text: Simon Caney, "Climate Change"
Week 15 (May 1-4)	Topic: Climate Change II	Text: Olúfémi Taíwò on Climate Colonialism and Reparations (podcast episode)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Jan 20, 2022	 TEST: Quiz 1 (https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377786)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jan 21, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 1</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1384272	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 21, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 1</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377785	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 27, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 2</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377809	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 28, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 2</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1421669	due by 11:59pm
Fri Jan 28, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 2</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1421315	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 3, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 3</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377813	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 4, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 3</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1421677	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 4, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 3</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1421317	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 10, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 4</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377814	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 11, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 4</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1437120	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 11, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 4</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1421641	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 17, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 5</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377815	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Fri Feb 18, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 5</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1437127	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 24, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 5</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1437121	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 25, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 6</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1383687	due by 11:59pm
Fri Feb 25, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 6</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1437131	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 3, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 6</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1437129	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 3, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 7</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1377816	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 4, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 7</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1447963	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 4, 2022	 <u>Midterm Exam</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1381201	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 17, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 7</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1447961	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 17, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 8</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1452442	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 18, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 8</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1452455	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 18, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 8</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1452461	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Mar 24, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 9</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1454935	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 25, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 9</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1454938	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 25, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 9</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1454937	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 31, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 10</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1457767	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 1, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 10</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1457779	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 1, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 10</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1457768	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 8, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 11</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1462014	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 8, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 11</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1462011	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 8, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 11</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1462016	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 14, 2022	 <u>TEST: Quiz 12</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1466620	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 15, 2022	 <u>DISCUSS: Week 12</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1466625	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 15, 2022	 <u>WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 12</u> https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1466622	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Thu Apr 21, 2022	 TEST: Quiz 13 https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1470658	due by 11:59pm
	 VT SPOT https://canvas.vt.edu/calendar?event_id=996555&include_contexts=course_148651	12am
Fri Apr 22, 2022	 DISCUSS: Week 13 https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1470664	due by 11:59pm
	 WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 13 https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1470655	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 28, 2022	 Quiz 14 https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1474329	due by 11:59pm
	 DISCUSS: Week 14 https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1474344	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 29, 2022	 WRITE: Intellectual Journal Week 14 https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1474642	due by 11:59pm
Wed May 11, 2022	 Final Exam https://canvas.vt.edu/courses/148651/assignments/1381202	due by 11:59pm