



Approved by: .....

Dean

Date 14/05/2023

**SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI"**

Subject area: (code and name)

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**SYLLABUS:**

**On *Just War Theory*, Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies**

Course:

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**Lecturer: Piotr Pietrzak, Ph.D.**

Assistant:

Academic work	Type	Number of classes
In-class work	In-class	15 lectures (30 h)
In-class work	<b>Fieldwork (optional)</b> A study trip to the <b>Rhodope Mountains to discover Bulgaria's Unique Ethnic Model</b> – hundreds of years a unique ethnic and religious diversity	1 fieldwork (5h long)
	Any other <i>ad hoc</i> project related to Just War Theory, Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies	Optional
Out-of-class work	<b>Library Study</b> (Self Study)	Approximately 25 h
Out-of-class work	<b>Work on the project</b>	20 h
<b>Total in-class work</b>		30 h
<b>Total out-of-class work</b>		45 h
<b>Total of academic work</b>		75 hours
<b>ECTS credits in-class work</b>		2.5
<b>ECTS credits out-of-class work</b>		
<b>Total ECTS credits</b>		2.5

Nº	Grading	% of the grade
1.	Final essay: between 2000 - 3000 words	60%
2.	Participation in discussions & learning log	20%
3.	Book Review between 500 – 1000 words	20%
	<b>Note:</b> To receive an overall passing grade, students must receive a passing grade in all three components of the final grade. Failing one component of the course will lead to a failing grade in the overall course.	
<b>Outline of the course</b>		
The course aims to provide students with the fundamental tools to understand the just war theory, human rights, and humanitarian studies. It will introduce students to the historical background of the contemporary just war tradition and familiarize them with leading approaches to ethical/humanitarian analyses of selected regional conflicts of global importance. Our primary research area will be approached from humanitarian perspectives supplemented by selected philosophical approaches.		

<b>Preliminary requirements</b>
There are no prerequisites for this course. It will consist of a series of seminar sessions with pre-assigned readings and prerecorded materials. We will utilize all resources available, both academic publications and the resources provided by governments, international organizations, various think tanks, and nonprofit organizations. Students are expected to do all the readings, watch all asynchronous content before each session, and attend and participate in all sessions. The sessions will focus on critically discussing the assigned tasks.

<b>Expected outcomes</b>
By the end of the semester, all students taking this course should be familiar with the main principles governing Jus ad bellum – “The body of international law governing the right of one state to resort to war against another”. Jus in bello – “The body of international law regulating the conduct of combatants during the war to minimize unnecessary damage and suffering.” Jus post-bellum – “Is the body of laws, norms, and principles that apply during the transition from war to peace. It provides relational cohesion to its underlying laws and norms and a basis for assigning responsibility for post-conflict obligations”. The students will be able to distinguish between collateral damage that is an unintended consequence of the ongoing hostilities and war crimes or acts of genocide. Subsequently, the students will be familiar with the philosophical and ethical underpinnings of the principle of fair treatment of prisoners of war (POWs), the non-combat immunity principle, the principle of last resort, the principle of the right intention, the principle of right authority, The principle of proportionality, the probability of success principle, and the theory related to various exceptions related to those principles during and after the so-called supreme emergencies. Students will be able to independently describe how they perceive the new architecture of global power from a philosophical perspective and explain the strengths and the limitations of the UN-Security-based System works.

## *Syllabus*

<b>№</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Number of classes</b>
1.	Introduction to Human Rights, the Kantian <i>Perpetual Peace</i> , Pacifism, Militarism, and The Just War Tradition	1 (2x 45 min)
2.	Approaching Jus ad bellum Theory – Philosophical Approaches of Plato, Cicero, St. Augustine, Saint Thomas Aquinas, and Michael Walzer	1 (2x 45 min)
3.	Total War vs. Jus in Bello Tradition	1 (2x 45 min)
4.	Collateral damage, war crimes, and an act of genocide	1 (2x 45 min)
5.	Non-combatant immunity principle	1 (2x 45 min)
6.	The principle of fair treatment of prisoners of war (POWs),	1 (2x 45 min)
7.	The principles of last resort, the principle of the right intention, the principle of right authority	1 (2x 45 min)
8.	The principles of proportionality, the probability of success principle, and the so-called supreme emergencies principle.	1 (2x 45 min)
9.	What is Jus post-bellum?	1 (2x 45 min)
10.	Auschwitz Birkenau's Never Again Message and the Lessons from World War Two that we repeatedly ignored	1 (2x 45 min)
11.	Intellectuals and the Jus in Bello Tradition	1 (2x 45 min)
12.	Michael Walzer's Communitarianism Vs. Charles Beitz's Cosmopolitanism and Global Justice Theory	1 (2x 45 min)
13.	Bulgarian Intake on the Jus in Bello Tradition and Prof. Plamen Makariev's unique ethnic model argument - the Rhodope Mountains and its Unique Ethnic Model – Hundreds of Years of Peace	1 (2x 45 min)
14.	Protecting the Natural Environment in Wartime: Ethical Considerations from the Just War Tradition	1 (2x 45 min)
15.	Quo Vadis Jus in bello Tradition? Discussing Just war theory of the Future	1 (2x 45 min)
16.	Fieldwork (optional) A study trip to the Rhodope Mountains to discover Bulgaria's Unique Ethnic Model – hundreds of years a unique ethnic and religious diversity Any other ad hoc project related to Just War Theory, Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies	1 class (5 h long)

**15+1**

### *Examples of Topics for Final Paper*

<b>№</b>	<b>Question</b>
1.	Can there be ethics in a world of politics?
2.	Why is Jus in Bello Tradition still important today?
3.	What Philosophy Teaches Us About Modern Humanitarian Emergencies
4.	Why was Auschwitz Birkenau's Never Again Message so much ignored for the last thirty years?
5.	Discuss any regional conflict of global importance from a humanitarian perspective / give recommendation on improving the situation of the non-combat populations/civilians affected by the ongoing hostilities.

## ***Bibliography***

### ***Compulsory reading***

- *Just War Theory* | *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. (n.d.). | <https://iep.utm.edu/justwar/>
- *Just War Theory: It's Hard to Fight if the Fight's Not Fair* – Academy 4SC. (n.d.). <https://academy4sc.org/video/just-war-theory-its-hard-to-fight-if-the-fights-not-fair/>
- “Pacifism | History, Justifications, Criticism, & Types.” (n.d.). *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/pacifism>
- Walzer, Michael. 1977. *Just and Unjust Wars* (Any edition) [Basic Books, 1977; Second edition, 1992; Third edition, 2000, ISBN 0-465-03705-4; Fourth edition, 2006, ISBN 0-465-03707-0]; Fifth edition, 2015].
- Walzer, Michael. (2012). “The Aftermath of War.” In *Ethics Beyond War's End*, ed. E. Patterson, 35-46. Georgetown: Georgetown University Press.
- Walzer, M. (1973) “Political Action: The Problem of Dirty Hands,” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 2 (1973), 160-80. [http://fs2.american.edu/dfagel/www/Philosophers/Walzer/PoliticalAction\\_TheProblemofDirtyHabnds.pdf](http://fs2.american.edu/dfagel/www/Philosophers/Walzer/PoliticalAction_TheProblemofDirtyHabnds.pdf).
- Michael Walzer on *Just War Theory* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcBovmGZSPU>

### ***Optional Reading***

- Any paper of your choice related to *Just War Theory* (Recommended authors: Michael Walzer, Thomas Aquinas, Francisco de Vitoria, Hugo Grotius, or any other)
- Beitz, Charles R. 2005. “Cosmopolitanism and Global Justice.” *Journal of Ethics* 9 (1-2),
- Brooks Thom. 2013. *Just War Theory*. Leiden: Brill. <https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004242029>.
- Cohen, Marshall (1984). Moral Skepticism and International Relations. *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 13(4): 299-346. Reprinted in Beitz, Charles, Marshall Cohen, Thomas Scanlon, and A. John Simmons, eds. (1985). *International Ethics. A Philosophy and Public Affairs Reader*. Princeton: Princeton University Press
- Elving, Ron. “From Nuremberg to Darfur, History Has Seen Some War Criminals Brought to Trial.” *From Nuremberg to Darfur, History Has Seen Some War Criminals Brought to Trial*, [www.npr.org/2022/04/10/1091256975/from-nuremberg-to-darfur-history-has-seen-some-war-criminals-brought-to-trial](http://www.npr.org/2022/04/10/1091256975/from-nuremberg-to-darfur-history-has-seen-some-war-criminals-brought-to-trial). Accessed November 1, 2022.
- Kant, Immanuel, 1975. *Perpetual Peace A Philosophical Essay*. Translated With Introduction And Notes By M. Campbell Smith, M.A. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/50922/50922-h/50922-h.htm>
- Makariev Plamen. 2017. *The Public Legitimacy of Minority Claims: A Central*. London: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.
- Mill, J.S. 1959. “A few words on non-intervention.” Retrieved 01 15, 2013, from The Collected Works of John Stuart Mill, Volume XXI - *Essays on Equality, Law, and Education*, ed. John M. Robson, Introduction by Stefan Collini (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, London: Rutledge and Kegan Paul, 1984),
- Power, Samantha. 2007. *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. London: Harper Perennial,
- Pietrzak, Piotr. 2023. “Michael Walzer’s work and the idea of humanitarian intervention in Syria (2011-): The International Response to the Situation in Syria During and After the Arab Spring in *Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Regulation of the Modern Global Migration and Economic Crisis*. Edited by Alaverdov, Emilia, and Muhammad Waseem Bari. 2023, DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-6334-5.
- Pin-Fat, Véronique. (2009). “How do we begin to think about the world?” in Jenny Edkins and Maja Zehfuss, (eds.) *Global Politics: A new introduction*, New York: Routledge,
- Pin-Fat, Véronique. (2010). *Universality, Ethics, and International Relations: A Grammatical Reading*. London: Routledge,

- Michael Walzer on *Just War Theory* - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcBovmGZSPU>

#### Readings in Bulgarian (Optional):

- *Универсалност и приложимост на човешките права: Сборник с доклади от конференция*, Колектив, Edited by Veselin Hristov Dafov, Ivan Kirkov, Tsena Zhelyazkova, Sofia 2020, - The collection includes reports from the conference "Universality and Applicability of Human Rights", organized by the Philosophy Department of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in December 2018. The reason for the conference was the seventieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations in 1948.
- *Critique & Humanism* | 18 | 2004 | A Special Edition Dedicated to The Just War Today,

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#### A SHORT BIO:

**Piotr Pietrzak, Ph.D.** (based in Sofia, Bulgaria) is a researcher with a strong background in political philosophy, conflict resolution strategies, international theories, and geopolitics | Pietrzak is a Lectures at the Faculty of Philosophy of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Bulgaria. His research interests include political philosophy, international relations, security studies, and humanitarian intervention, among others. He has authored several articles and book chapters in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, including "On the Idea of Humanitarian Intervention: A New Compartmentalization of IR Theories. 2021" He has also contributed articles to the online publication Modern Diplomacy.

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