

The Donna Dillon Manning School of Global Affairs

SEM 2 2025/2026

IRL 448
3 CREDITS PR. Gregory Mose
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Global Justice

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

What do we owe each other as global citizens? Do concepts of fairness and accountability have any place in international relations? And if so, what mechanisms exist to try to achieve justice in a “rules based international order?” This course will look at the question of global justice from a theoretical, political and legal perspective, exploring philosophical questions about the nature of justice as well as practical questions about the role of international institutions such as the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, and the World Bank. Focusing on key issues such as distributive justice, climate change, migration, and security will provide students with a clearer sense of progress, problems and possibilities of creating a more humane and just international order.

II. PREREQUISITES

This course is suitable for an advanced undergraduate student who has completed at least 4 semesters of college-level coursework. Successful completion of at least 6 credits in politics, international relations or political philosophy are strongly recommended; or instructor permission.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The aim of this course is to help you to:

- Examine the key concepts of global justice
- Critically analyse global justice arguments evaluate policies purporting to promote justice
- Acquire working knowledge of the mechanisms and actors involved in promoting global justice

- Demonstrate via written and oral exercises an appreciation of the complexity of challenges in key areas of global justice promotion
- Appraise global justice arguments from theoretical, legal and institutional perspectives

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The course will take a largely student-centered approach. Each week will involve both lectures and extensive class discussions and student presentations exploring the work of theorists, particular challenges, and country case studies. In addition, students will organize and present a series of key in-class debates on the nature of justice and the practical challenges of egalitarian visions of the international order.

V. PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

The Global Justice Reader

By Thom Brooks

Mapping Global Justice Perspectives, Cases and Practice

By Arnaud Kurze, Christopher K. Lamont

Weekly readings will also be drawn from academic journals, institutional publications, and mainstream periodicals.

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING

Evaluation for this course will be based on:

Midterm Exam: 25%

This will involve an in-class, handwritten response to one or more prompts in long-answer format. Students will be assessed on their understanding and appreciation of the challenges of defining justice and promoting it in a multipolar, anarchical, and rapidly-evolving global order.

In-class debates: 20%

Students will prepare and engage in at least two formal debates engaging with specific global justice challenges (inequality, climate, etc.). They will be assessed on the sophistication of their analysis and appreciation of theoretical aspects of global justice, not speaking skills per se.

Policy Brief: 20%

The policy brief will be a relatively short analysis of a current problem, explored from the perspective of particular actor in global justice (government, NGO, etc) and accompanied by recommendations for that government or organization. Students will

be assessed on writing, analysis, and appreciation of the relevant institutional constraints.

Term Paper: 25%

Students will write a final paper focusing on a specific issue we have discussed in class. Students will be graded not only on research, writing, and analysis, but also on how well they connect the content with class discussions and debates.

Oral Participation: 10%

All students are expected to speak in class and participate meaningfully in discussions and activities.

VII. ATTENDANCE

Class attendance and participation are essential to your success at ACM. They will affect your final grade, and unexcused absences will lower your grade by half a letter (e.g., B+ to B). Faculty may also assign additional consequences for excessive or unexcused absences, repeated tardiness, or late work.

VIII. CALENDAR

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS

Week 1 (28 Jan): Introduction to the course

- Hickel – The Development Delusion
- Patrick - The Death of the World America Made

Week 2 (2, 4 Feb): What is Justice? Three Major Theories

Session 1:

- Armstrong, Chris. "What is the Problem?" from *Why Global Justice Matters* (Chapt. 1)
- Sandel, Michael. "The Moral Side of Murder" (video)

Session 2:

- Sandel, "Do We Own Ourselves? - Libertarianism" from *Justice* (Chapt. 3)
- Sandel, "The Case for Equality - John Rawls" from *Justice* (Chapt. 6)

Week 3 (9, 11 Feb): Why *Global* Justice?

Session 1:

- Singer, Peter. "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
- Miller, David. "Two ways to think about justice" from *Justice for Earthlings* (Chapt. 1)

Session 2:

- Lichtenberg, Judith. "Entanglements and the Claims of Mere Humanity" from *Distant Strangers* (Chapter 2)
- Lichtenberg, Judith. "Negative and Positive Duties" from *Distant Strangers* (Chapt. 4)

Week 4 (16, 18 Feb): Major Frameworks of Global Justice

Session 1: The Statist Framework

- Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (pp. 1-10, 23-30, 36-42)
- Pogge, "Rawls on International Justice"

Session 2: Cosmopolitan Frameworks

- Brock, *Global Justice* Chapter 3 (pp. 51-75) - 24 pages
- Pogge, *World Poverty* Chapter 1 (pp. 1-26)

UNIT 2: INEQUALITY

Week 5 (23, 25 Feb): Colonialism and Contemporary Responsibility

Session 1:

- Hickel, "Where did poverty come from?", from *The Divide* (chapt. 3)
- Cesaire, Aimée. 1955. *Discourse on Colonialism* (excerpt)
- Fanon, Frantz. 1961. "On Violence" from *The Wretched of the Earth* (excerpt).

Session 2:

- Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue* Chapter 15, "The virtues, the unity of a human life, and the concept of tradition"
- Lea Ypi et al., "Associative Duties, Global Justice, and the Colonies" from *The Global Justice Reader* 337-353

Week 6 (2, 4 March): Poverty and Inequality

- Anderson "What is the Point of Equality?"
- Hickel - "Plunder in the 21st Century"

- Milanovic, *Worlds Apart*, Chapters 1 and 12
- Kurze, Arnaud and Lamont, Christopher. 2023. "Inequality, Poverty, and Postcolonial Perspectives" in *Mapping Global Justice*. London: Routledge. 43-58.
- Video: The WTO Explained (5 min.)
- Stiglitz, Joseph. 2003. "The Promise of Global Institutions." In *Globalization and Its Discontents*. New York: Norton, 3-22.

Week 7 (9, 11 March): Review and Midterm Exam

→ SPRING BREAK

Week 8 (32, 25 March): Identity

- Young – Five Faces of Oppression
- Race and Global Justice." In Duncan Bell (ed.), *Empire, Race and Global Justice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 94-119.
- Explore: <https://backlashmap.euromedrights.org/en/>
- Raday – The Impact of CEDAW

UNIT 3: DISPLACEMENT AND DISPOSSESSION

Week 9 (30 March, 1 April): Climate Justice

- Moellendorf, Darrel. 2015. "Climate Change Justice." *Philosophy Compass* 10(3): 173-186.
- Jamieson, Dale. 2015. "Responsibility and Climate Change." *Global Justice: Theory Practice Rhetoric* 8(2): 23-42.
- Shue, Henry. 1993. "Subsistence Emissions and Luxury Emissions."
- Harris – Chaos at COP 30

Week 10 (6, 8 April): Migration

- Carens, Joseph. 2013. "The Case for Open Borders" (excerpts). In *The Ethics of Immigration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 225-245.
- Hosein, Adam. 2019. *The Ethics of Migration*. London: Routledge, pps36-57 and 147-162.
- Miller – Immigration: The Case for Limits
- Browse: <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/about-digital-platform/global-compact-refugees>
- Browse: <https://www.iom.int/global-compact-migration>

UNIT 4: INSECURITY AND VIOLENCE

Week 11 (13, 15 April): Human Rights, Security, and Asymmetry

- Evans, Gareth. 2006. "From Humanitarian Intervention to the Responsibility to Protect." *Wisconsin International Law Journal* 24(3): 703-722.
- Donnelly, Jack – "International Human Rights Instruments," from *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*.
- Tasioulas – Saving Human Rights from Human Rights Law
- Stephen Miller interview

Week 12 (20, 22 April): International Criminal Justice

- Nuremberg Principles
- Gideon Boas and Pascale Chifflet - "What is international criminal justice"
- Desmond Tutu – "The ICC is about justice, not race"
- Leah Calabro – "A Decade of Impunity"

Week 13 (27, 29 April): Dignity and justice in a "time of monsters"

- Primo Levi, *If This is a Man*, Chapter 3 "Initiation"
- Punta del Este Declaration
- Gilibert – "The Dignitarian Approach" from *Human Dignity and Social Justice*
- Lloyd – "Human Dignity is Black Dignity"
- Addis – "Justice Kennedy on Dignity" (excerpts)