

Ethics and Global Economics
Carnegie Mellon University
Fall 2016

Instructor: Aidan Kestigian
Office: Doherty Hall 4301 B
Email: akestigian@cmu.edu
Course website: Blackboard
Office hours: Monday 11:30-1:30, and by appointment

Course number: 80-247
Course location: Mellon Institute 355
Time: MWF 2:30 – 3:20 p.m.

Course Description:

This course will examine contemporary ethical issues in global economics, and consider what obligations states and individuals have in resolving those issues. Along the way, we will ask questions like: What are the advantages and disadvantages of international trade? What do economically and technologically advanced states owe developing states? To answer these and other questions, we will apply ethical frameworks to a series of case studies in global economics. Readings will be drawn from philosophy, economics, political science, and public media (newspapers, magazines, etc.).

Philosophical inquiry is pursued via writing, speaking, and reading. Throughout this course, students will be asked to read primary source texts, write short responses, and participate in classroom discussions. Written work will typically involve a summary of one or more philosophers' arguments, followed by an original critique or defense of those arguments. No philosophical background is required for this class. However, if you are having difficulty with the readings or essays, please make an appointment to meet with the instructor.

Text:

There is no required text. All readings will be available on the Blackboard site.

Learning Expectations

By the end of this course, students should be able to critically evaluate international economic policies using contemporary ethical perspectives, and be able to make an informed judgment of those policies in light of that evaluation.

In particular, students should be able to:

- Approach ethical problems in economics with a critical, inquisitive disposition.
- Understand and explain contemporary ethical perspectives on global economics.

- Research international economic policies, and explain those policies in a clear, impartial manner.
- Apply ethical perspectives to international economic policies.
- Use applications of ethical perspectives to make an informed judgment of the policies discussed.

Grading

Participation & Nightly Readings

In-Class Engagement	20%
Discussion Questions & Reflections	10%

Blog Posts

Primary Blog Posts	10%
Response Blog Posts	10%
Conclusion Blog Posts	5%
Self-Assessments	5%
Blog Group Presentation	10%

Papers

Paper 1	15%
Paper 2	15%

In-Class Engagement & Attendance

Students will be evaluated on their preparedness for the day's discussion. In order to be successful, a student must have completed the reading and come prepared with any questions or comments about the reading. Every three weeks, the instructor will give you a grade for in-class engagement during those weeks, and the average of those grades will constitute the student's semester engagement grade.

Attendance is required for this course and will be recorded each class. Each student is allowed two "freebies." Every unexcused absence after the first two will result in a five-point deduction from your final in-class engagement grade. Five or more unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. You can improve your in-class engagement & attendance grade by taking advantage of office hours. If you are absent, you are responsible for finding out what notes or assignments you missed. I am willing to excuse additional absences due to illness, disability, or job events (job fairs, interviews, etc.), but please let me know about your absence before the missed class.

Course Policies

Late Work

All work handed in late will receive a deduction, starting the minute after assignments are due. Late work will receive a 10-point deduction for every day late. Assignments that are more than four days late will not be accepted.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

I take very seriously the university's policy on plagiarism and cheating. In all original work, you *must* cite every source you use. Please use a consistent, standard system of citation unless otherwise noted. MLA and APA are common formats in the humanities and social sciences. If a student is caught plagiarizing, the student in question will receive a failing grade for both the assignment and the course. In addition, the university will be notified of the student's misconduct.

A short excerpt from the Carnegie Mellon *Policy on Academic Integrity* is listed below:

“In any manner of presentation, it is the responsibility of each student to produce her/his own original academic work. Collaboration or assistance on academic work to be graded is not permitted unless explicitly authorized by the course instructor(s). Students may utilize the assistance provided by Academic Development, the Global Communication Center, and the Academic Resource Center (CMU-Q) unless specifically prohibited by the course instructor(s). Any other sources of collaboration or assistance must be specifically authorized by the course instructor(s).”

In all academic work to be graded, the citation of all sources is required. When collaboration or assistance is permitted by the course instructor(s) or when a student utilizes the services provided by Academic Development, the Global Communication Center, and the Academic Resource Center (CMU-Q), the acknowledgement of any collaboration or assistance is likewise required. This citation and acknowledgement must be incorporated into the work submitted and not separately or at a later point in time. Failure to do so is dishonest and is subject to disciplinary action”

For more information, please read the full *Policy on Academic Integrity*, found at the following link: <http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Academic%20Integrity.html>

Statement on Disabilities

I strive to make the classroom environment as inclusive as possible. If you would like to request accommodations for a disability, please contact me (the instructor) and the Office of Disability Resources at access@andrew.cmu.edu as soon as you are able. You can read about the Office of Disability Resources services here: <https://www.cmu.edu/hr/eos/disability/index.html>.

Daily Schedule

Weeks 1 & 2: Introduction

Week 1: Introduction to Ethics & Global Economics

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) August 29	Introduction to Course	
(W) August 31	Economics & Ethics	Riddell et al., "Econ. as a Social Science" p. 1-8 Discussion Questions Due 8:00 a.m.
(F) September 2	The "Global" Economy	Riddell et al., "Emerging Global Economy" p. 17-32 Discussion Questions Due 8:00 a.m.

Week 2: What Can Ethics do for Economics?

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) September 5	No Class (Labor Day)	
(W) September 7	Applied Ethics	Dare, "Applied Ethics" Discussion Questions Due at 8:00 a.m.
(F) September 9	Blog Discussion	Blog Post 1 Due 8:00 p.m.

Weeks 3-8: How Should the Global Economy be Structured?

Weeks 3: Capitalism

Date	Topic	Reading
(M) September 12	Intro. to Econ. Theory	Riddell et al., "Econ. as a Social Science" p. 9-16 Primary Post 2 Due 8:00 p.m.
(W) September 14	Capitalism at a Global Level	Riddell et al., "Economic Systems" p. 40-56 Response Post 2 Due 8:00 p.m.
(F) September 16	Blog Discussion	Conclusion Post 2 Due at 8:00 p.m.

Week 4: Critiques of Capitalism

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) September 19	Capitalism & Labor	Marx, Excerpts on Alienation Reflection Due at 8:00 a.m.
(W) September 21	Capitalism & Gender	Einstein, Excerpts “Capitalist Patriarchy” Discussion Questions Due at 8:00 a.m.
(F) September 23	Responses	

Week 5: Socialism

Date	Topic	Reading/ Assignment Due
(M) September 26	Socialism v. Capitalism	Reading TBA Primary Post 3 Due 8:00 p.m.
(W) September 28	“Socialism” in Politics	Frizell, “Democratic Socialism” Response Post 3 Due 8:00 p.m.
(F) September 30	Blog Discussion	Conclusion Post 3 Due 8:00 p.m.

Week 6: Communism

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) October 3	Intro. To Communism	Marx & Engels, “Communist Manifesto” p. 1-22
(W) October 5	Communism	Marx & Engels, “Communist Manifesto” p. 22-44 Discussion Questions Due 8:00 a.m.
(F) October 7	Problem Solving	

Week 7: Critiques of Communism

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) October 10	Developing Critiques	Primary Post 4 Due 8:00 p.m.
(W) October 12	Blog Discussion	Response Post 4 Due 8:00 p.m. Paper 1 Handed Out
(F) October 14	No Class Mid-Semester Break	Conclusion Post 4 Due 8:00 p.m.

Week 8: Feminist Critiques of Contemporary Economics

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) October 17	Feminist Critiques	Nelson, "Gender and... Economics" Primary Post 5 Due 8:00 p.m.
(W) October 19	Diversity in Economics	Romero, "Where are the Women?" Response Post 5 Due 8:00 p.m.
(F) October 21	Blog Discussion	Conclusion Post 5 Due at 8:00 p.m.

Weeks 9-14: Contemporary Ethical Issues in Global Economics**Week 9: International Trade**

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) October 24	International Trade	Riddell et al., "International Trade" Discussion Questions Due 8:00 a.m.
(W) October 26	Trade & Human Rights	Hafner-Burton, "Human Rights", p.593-607
(F) October 28	Group Problem Solving	Paper 1 Due 8:00 p.m.

Week 10: Distribution of Income

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) October 31	Distribution of Income	Riddell et al., p. 229-245 Primary Post 6 Due 8:00 p.m.
(W) November 2	Women & Work	Matthaei, "Healing Ourselves" p. 461-474 Response Post 6 Due 8:00 p.m.
(F) November 4	Blog Discussion	Conclusion Post 6 Due 8:00 p.m.

Week 11: Economic Justice

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) November 7	Justice as Fairness	Williamson & O'Neill, "Justice", p.1-6 Reflection Due 8:00 a.m.
(W) November 9	Critiques	Williamson & O'Neill, "Justice", p. 6-12 Reflection Due 8:00 a.m.
(F) November 11	Debate	

Week 12: Blogging, Presentation, and Paper 2 Work

****All Week: Office hours to discuss presentations with groups (by appointment)****

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) November 14	Blogging Day	Primary Post 7 Due 8:00 p.m. Presentation Instructions Handed Out Paper 2 Instructions Handed Out
(W) November 16	Presentation Planning	Response Post 7 Due 8:00 p.m.
(F) November 18	Blog Discussion	Conclusion Post 7 Due 8:00 p.m.

**Week 13: Thanksgiving Break
No Class**

Week 14 & 15: Presentations & Course Conclusion

Week 14: Blogging Conclusion

****All Week: Office hours to discuss paper 2 with groups (by appointment)****

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignment Due
(M) November 28	Blog Discussion & Paper 2	Post 8 Due at 8:00 p.m.
(W) November 30	Presentations	
(F) December 2	Presentations	

Week 15: Course Conclusion

Date	Topic	Notes
(M) December 5	Presentations	
(W) December 7	Presentations	
(F) December 9	Course Recap	
(F) December 16		Paper 2 Due at 8:00 p.m.

In-Class Engagement
 (Source: Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence, CMU)

	Exemplary (90-100%)	Proficient (80-90%)	Developing (70-80%)	Unacceptable (<70%)
Engagement	Student is consistently engaged with the discussion, even when he/she is not speaking.	Student is usually engaged with class discussion.	----- -----	Student is usually not engaged with class discussion.
Listening Skills	Student listens attentively when others present materials, perspectives.	Student is mostly attentive when others present ideas.	Student is often inattentive and needs reminder of focus of class. Occasionally makes disruptive comments while others are speaking.	Does not listen to others; regularly talks while others speak or does not pay attention while others speak; sleeps, etc.
Respect for Others	Student is consistently respectful of others' comments, even when he or she disagrees with what has been said, as agreed upon in the Guidelines for In-Class Discussion.	Student is usually respectful of others.	Student is often disrespectful of others' comments.	Student does not show any respect for other students.