

Global Justice

IR B2504

Fall 2024

Monday 4:50-6:50

NAC 4/126

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Office Hours

Monday 3:30-4:30

NAC 4/143B

Other times by appointment

What does global justice mean? And how can we build a more just world? This class reviews major schools of thought defining global justice and asks what political program each advocates. Schools of thought include, among others, utilitarianism, Rawlsian liberalism, cosmopolitanism, communitarianism, and decolonialism, among others.

Learning Outcomes: The primary goals of this course are for students to be able to assess the benefits and costs of different theories of global justice and to be able to read and critically evaluate academic and journalistic work advocating for different policies to improve the world.

Course Assignments and Evaluation: The goal of the course is to improve students' abilities to understand the internal logic of different perspectives on global justice, to be able to critique these perspectives, and to apply those principles to specific policy areas. As such, the assignments are directed at improving these skills. To help with these goals, students will apply these perspectives to creating frameworks for solving one of the biggest policy challenges in the world today: climate change.

Policy Memos:

Students will write four policy memos that instruct the leader of a large, industrialized country about how they should think about what achieving climate justice would mean. The first three memos will be limited to three pages each, similar to the kind of policy memo that would appear in a briefing book for a leader. The fourth memo will be a maximum of ten pages and will develop one of the earlier memos, responding to specific questions and challenges that were raised on the earlier paper by the "world leader" who has read the memo. Students will be expected to argue from the perspective of an ethicist trained in a particular way of thinking and apply it to the problem of climate change. Detailed instructions about the memos will follow and students will sign up to submit a memo for the specific perspectives below (see dates for when specific memos are due). The final paper will be due December 16.

Debate Presentation:

In addition to the policy memos, students will participate in a final National Security Council Meeting where they will argue to the President how they should pursue climate justice from the perspective of the perspective they will write about for their final memo.

In-class Participation:

The course is designed as a seminar, hence active, thoughtful, and respectful participation on the part of students is crucial to the success of the class. Students are expected to arrive to class each session having read and thought about the assignments and prepared to discuss them.

Grading:

Each memo will count for 20% of the final grade, the final paper will count for 30% of the final grade, and participation will count for 10% of the final grade.

Books to Purchase:

None. This is a zero-cost course.

Accessibility and Campus Resources: At City College, we strive to make all our classes accessible to every student, regardless of any disability (visible or non-visible; physical, cognitive, emotional, or learning) or any other special circumstances (such as a medical, personal, or housing emergency; family responsibilities; financial difficulties; legal difficulties; or immigration status) that may affect your ability to attend class and complete the coursework. Please speak to your professors in office hours or via email early in the semester or as soon as you're aware that you may need accommodations.

In addition, City College offers resources to students in a wide range of circumstances. Please share this information with your friends and classmates at CCNY! We want all students to succeed and to take advantage of all the support the college has to offer.

Please let your other professors know if you have registered with the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (AAC/SDS) or have any *special needs, learning differences, or medical conditions* that may affect your coursework so that we can make the appropriate accommodations. If you believe you may need an accommodation, please do get in touch with the AAC/SDS (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/accessability>). You can reach the AccessAbility office via email (disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu) to schedule an in-person or virtual appointment.

If you need a *computer, tablet, or wi-fi*, you can request them through an online form (https://portal.ccny.cuny.edu/depts/oit/cuny_loaner/login.php). You can also contact the iMedia Center (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/it/imedia>) via email (imedia@ccny.cuny.edu) to set up an in-person or virtual appointment. For other technical support, visit the Office of Information Technology in NAC 1/301 or visit their website (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/it/students>).

If you have any questions or concerns about your *immigration status* or that of your family members, please consult the CCNY Immigration Center for free and confidential advice via phone (212-650-6620) or email (meetu.dhar@cuny.edu).

If, for any reason, you are struggling with *personal issues, anxiety, depression, or stress*, there are a number of resources on campus.

The Student Counseling Center in the Health and Wellness Center provides remote counseling that is free and confidential to students. You can contact them via phone (212-650-8222), email (counseling@ccny.cuny.edu), or in-person at their office in Marshak J15. To be immediately connected with a Crisis Counselor, text CUNY to 741741. This Crisis Text Line is a free and confidential service that assists in problem solving and safety planning during moments of crisis and is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They also have links to a number of resources on their website (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/counseling>).

The Colin Powell School offers free, confidential peer mentoring with trained graduate students on issues of stress management and self-care. To sign up, simply send an email (peernavigationccny@gmail.com) or sign up online (<https://calendly.com/peernavigation/calendar?month=2022-01>).

The Psychological Center, located in the NAC Building, 8th Floor offers a range of in-person psychological services at low cost, including individual and group psychotherapy, couple's therapy and psychological testing. All services are confidential. To schedule a psychological screening, please call 212-650-6602 or you can go on the clinic's website <https://www.thepsychologicalcenter.org/> and click on NEW PATIENT to begin the process for a psychological screening.

We also have a new partnership with NAMI-NYC. One in five New Yorkers lives with a mental health condition. The other four are our family, friends, fellow students, neighbors, colleagues. Whether you are living with mental health challenges or you care about someone who does, NAMI-NYC's programs and services can help. NAMI-NYC programs are led by and for people living with mental health challenges AND the people who care about them. We understand what you're going through because we're living it too. And all of our programs and services are available FREE of charge and you can be as anonymous as you'd like. It's never been easier to find help and find hope. Contact NAMI-NYC's FREE Helpline to learn more today at 212-684-3264 or helpline@naminyc.org.

If you are dealing with *food insecurity*, please visit Benny's Food Pantry in the Hoffman Lounge on the first floor of the NAC. To gain access on weekdays, just make an appointment online (<https://calendly.com/bennysfoodpantry/benny-s-food-pantry-appointment-system?month=2022-01>). Visit their website to learn more about Benny's Food Pantry (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/bennysfoodpantry>).

If you are facing an ***emergency shortage of funds***, please email Ms. Charlene Darbassie (cdarbassie@ccny.cuny.edu) or Dean Andy Rich (arich@ccny.cuny.edu) in the Colin Powell School Dean's Office. They will tell you how to apply for an emergency grant. Applying is quick and easy. You can learn more about these emergency grants online (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/colinpowellschool/emergency-fundingcovid-19-aid>).

If you are experiencing or have experienced ***domestic violence*** or ***violence that is sex-based, gender-based, or sexuality-based***; or if you are experiencing or have experienced ***discrimination because of gender, sex, sexuality, race, ethnicity, language, religion, disability, or other reasons***, please report it to Diana Cuzzo in the Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance, and Diversity via email (dcuzzo@ccny.cuny.edu) or phone (212-650-7330). For a confidential discussion of these and related issues, please contact Sophie English via email (senglish@ccny.cuny.edu) or phone (212-650-8905).

The Health and Wellness Center offers resources to survivors of gender-based and sexuality-based violence as well as to all members of the ***LGBTQIA+ community*** at CCNY. You can learn more about these gender resources online (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/health-wellness/gender-resources>) or via phone (212-650-8222), via email (genderresources@ccny.cuny.edu), or in person at the Safe Space Resource Room located in the LGBTQ+ Center (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/lgbtq-student-center>) in NAC 1/101B.

If you are struggling in any of your classes, don't hesitate to get extra ***academic support***. Just make an appointment with the Student Support Services Program (www.ccny.cuny.edu/sssp/tutoring-arc) or City Tutors (<https://www.thecitytutors.org/>).

The CCNY Writing Center (www.ccny.cuny.edu/writing) offers individualized ***writing support*** to all students.

To receive information and support about securing ***internships*** and planning for your ***post-college career***, please contact Debbie Cheng (dcheng@ccny.cuny.edu), Ashif Hassan (ahassan@ccny.cuny.edu), and Maya Gutierrez (mgutierrez1@ccny.cuny.edu) in the Colin Powell School Office of Student Success (<https://cps-oss.ccny.cuny.edu>). Also, take a look at the new Career Handbook that their office has created to help you start thinking about career and professional development as well as the College's Career & Professional Development Institute (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/cpdi>).

A wide variety of ***student support resources***—from mentoring to fellowships, from activist and leadership skills to career planning—is available at the new Colin Powell School Office of Student Success. Check out their new website (<https://cps-oss.ccny.cuny.edu/>). and make sure to stop by their offices on the 6th floor of the NAC.

If you are a veteran, please know that the Office of Veteran Affairs offers a wide range of resources to support your studies. Information for how to contact that office is on the website (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/veterans/veterans-affairs-city-college>).

For ***general advising questions***, contact the Colin Powell School Office of Academic Advisors (<https://www.ccny.cuny.edu/colinpowellschool/office-academic-advisors>). This office is located in the NAC Building, Room 6/293. At their website, you can use Navigate to make an appointment with one of the advisors (www.ccny-cuny-campus.eab.com). You can also find their email addresses so you can send them a message.

Course Outline

Week 1 NO CLASS (September 2)

CUNY Cancellation

SECTION 1: INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL APPROACHES TO GLOBAL JUSTICE

Week 2 Introduction (September 9)

Steven Pinker. 2008. "The Moral Instinct." *New York Times Magazine* January 13.

Charles Beitz. 2001. "Human Rights as a Common Concern." *American Political Science Review* 95 (2): 269-82.

Thomas Pogge. 2005. "Real World Justice." *The Journal of Ethics* 9: 29-53.

Chandran Kukathas. 2006. "The Mirage of Global Justice," *Social Philosophy and Policy*, 23 (1): 1-28.

Week 3 Introducing Utilitarianism (September 16)

Peter Singer. 1972. "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1 (3): 229-243.

Onora Nell. 1975. "Lifeboat Earth." *Philosophy and Public Affairs*. 4 (3): 273-292.

William MacAskill. 2016. *Doing Good Better: Effective Altruism and How You Can Make a Difference*. New York: Gotham Books: Introduction and Chapter 1.

Optional:

Steven Dubner and William MacAskill. 2022. "A Million-Year view on Morality." *People I Mostly Admire Podcast*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCi1vE5fp18>

Week 4 Debating and Applying Utilitarianism (September 23)

Debating Utilitarianism

Garrett Hardin. 1974. "Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor." *Psychology Today*. September.

Sanjay G. Reddy. 2019. "Economics' Biggest Success Story Is a Cautionary Tale." *Foreign Policy*. October 22.

Emma Marris. 2023. "Here's What's Wrong with Effective Altruism." *Sierra*. May 16.

Applying Utilitarianism

Peter Singer. 2017. "One Atmosphere." In *One World: The Ethics of Globalization*. New Haven: Yale University Press: 14-50.

DUE: Memo on Utilitarianism

Week 5 Introducing Rawlsian Liberalism (September 30)

John Rawls. 1999 [1971]. *A Theory of Justice* (Revised Edition). Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press: Chapter 1.

Amartya Sen. 2000. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books: Chapter 4.

Martha Nussbaum. 2000. "Women's Capabilities and Social Justice." *Journal of Human Development* 1 (2): 219-247.

Optional:

Jonathan Wolff. "On John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*." *Philosophy Bites Podcast*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pvm1HNe2GvM>

Week 6 Debating and Applying Rawlsian Liberalism (October 7)

Debating the Liberal Approach

Thomas Pogge. 2001. "Priorities of Global Justice." *Metaphilosophy* 32 (1/2): 6-24.

Michael J. Sandel. 1984. "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self." *Political Theory* 12 (1): 81-96.

Jason Hickel. 2018. *The Divide: Global Inequality from Conquest to Free Markets*. New York: WW Norton and Company: Chapter 1.

Applying the Liberal Approach

Amartya Sen. 2000. *Development as Freedom*. New York: Anchor Books: Chapter 7.

DUE: Memo on Rawlsian Liberalism

Week 7 Introducing Communitarianism (October 15) – NOTE: TUESDAY

Michael Walzer. 1989. "Nation and Universe: The Tanner Lectures on Human Values." Brasenose College, Oxford University. May 1 and 8.

David Miller. 1988. "The Ethical Significance of Nationality." *Ethics* 98 (4): 647-662.

Goodin, Robert E. 1988. "What Is So Special about Our Fellow Countrymen?" *Ethics* 98 (4): 663-86.

Optional:

Nancy Rosenblum and Michael Walzer. "A Conversation with Michael Walzer." Annual Reviews. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TvpmmmLoO38>

Week 8 Debating and Applying Communitarianism (October 21)

Debating Communitarianism

Thomas M. Franck. 2001. "Are Human Rights Universal?" *Foreign Affairs* 80 (1): 191-204

Nussbaum, Martha C. 1994. "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism." *Boston Review*. October 1.

Peter Ekeh. 1975. "Colonialism and the Two Publics in Africa." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 17 (1): 91-112.

Applying Communitarianism

Volker Kaul. 2023. "Climate Change and Communitarianism." In *Handbook of the Philosophy of Climate Change*. Gianfranco Pellegrino and Marcello Di Paola, eds. Springer: 1213-1227.

DUE: Memo on Communitarianism

Week 9 Introducing Cosmopolitanism (October 28)

"Cosmopolitanism" in Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy online.
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/cosmopolitanism/>

Kwame Anthony Appiah. 2006. *Cosmopolitanism: Ethics in a World of Strangers*. New York: WW Norton Press: Introduction, Chapters 4 and 5.

David Held. 1995. "Cosmopolitan Democracy and the Global Order: Reflections on the 200th Anniversary of Kant's 'Perpetual Peace.'" *Alternatives* 20 (4): 415-429.

Optional:

Kwame Anthony Appiah. 2015. "Cosmopolitanism." Chicago Humanities Festival.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opXIIYRnu0A>

Week 10 Debating and Applying Cosmopolitanism (November 4)

Andrea Sangiovanni. 2007. "Global Justice, Reciprocity and the State." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 35 (1): 3-39.

Branko Milanovic. 2016. *Global Inequality: A New Approach for an Age of Globalization*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press: Chapter 1.

Thomas Piketty. 2021. "Public Capital, Private Capital." In *Time for Socialism: Dispatches from a World on Fire, 2016-2021*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Susan Moller Okin. 1997. "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" *Boston Review*. October/November.

Applying Cosmopolitanism

Simon Caney. 2005. "Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change." *Leiden Journal of International Law*. 18: 747-72.

DUE: Memo on Cosmopolitanism

Week 11 Introducing Decolonial Theory (November 11)

Aimé Césaire. 2001. *Discourse on Colonialism*. New York: Monthly Review Press: Selections.

Edward Said. 1979. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books: Introduction.

Adom Getachew. 2019. "When Jamaica Led the Fight Against Exploitation." *Boston Review*. February 5.

Adom Getachew. 2019. "Holding Ourselves Responsible." *Boston Review*. September 11.

Optional:

Robin D.G. Kelley and Kevin Ochieng Okoth. 2023. "Walter Rodney: Guerilla Intellectual." *The Verso Podcast*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgO1bxKfXOw>

Week 12 Debating and Applying Decolonial Theory (November 18)

Debating Decolonial Theory

Waldron, Jeremy. 1992. "Superseding Historic Injustice." *Ethics* 103: 4-28.

Morris, Christopher W. 1984. "Existential Limits to the Rectification of Past Wrongs." *American Philosophical Quarterly* 21 (2): 175-182.

Olufemi Taiwo. 2022. *Against Decolonization: Taking African Agency Seriously*. London: Hurst: Chapter 3.

Applying Decolonial Theory

Mia Mottley Speech Opening #COP27World Leaders Summit:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5J0egwAfO0w>

DUE: Memo on Decolonial Theory

Week 13 Introducing Degrowth (November 25)

Kohei Saito. 2024. *Slow Down: The Degrowth Manifesto*. New York: Astra House: Introduction, Chapter 7.

Kate Raworth. 2018. “A Healthy Economy Should be Designed to Thrive, Not Grow.” *Ted Talks*. June 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rhcrbcg8HBw>

Jason Hickel. 2021. *Less Is More: How Degrowth Will Save the World*. London: William Heinemann: Chapter 3.

Optional:

Jason Hickel. “The Problem with Green Capitalism.” *Upstream Podcast*.
<https://www.upstreampodcast.org/greentransitionpt1>

Week 14 Debating and Applying Degrowth (December 2)

Kelsey Piper. 2021. “Can We Save the Planet by Shrinking the Economy?” *Vox*. August 3.

Thomas Pogge. 2001. “Eradicating Systemic Poverty: Brief for a Global Resources Dividend.” *Journal of Human Development*. 2 (1): 59-77.

Leigh Phillips. 2023. “Degrowth Is Not the Answer to Climate Change.” *Jacobin*. January 8.

Matt Huber. 2023. “The Problem with Degrowth.” *Jacobin*. July 16.

Applying Degrowth

Jason Hickel et. al. 2022. “Degrowth Can Work – Here’s How Science Can Help.” *Nature* 612 (7940): 400-403.

DUE: Memo on Degrowth

Week 15 Saving the World from Climate Catastrophe (December 9)

A National Security Council meeting to discuss how the leader of an industrialized country should think about the ethical choices of setting a national climate policy.

Final Policy Memos: Due December 16