I. Course Description

The course is designed to foster reflection, debate and decision-making across the lines of politics, strategy and ethics. It will focus on normative discourse about war and peace. Primary attention will be paid analytically and historically to the “Just-War Ethic”: Readings and lectures will examine the ethic in light of challenges from other normative positions and from the nature of modern war. The Just-War Ethic will be assessed and used to engage a range of political-strategic challenges including: nuclear strategy, intervention and terrorism.

II. Course Requirements

1) Preparation of Readings and Class Discussion
2) Op-Ed Essay (1000 words; due: March 3) (20pts.)
3) Oral Exam: Based on Lectures and Readings (Jan 23-March 16); Exams Given:
   4) April 3-12 (30 pts.)
5) Students may choose either to do a Research Paper (15-20 pages; due May 5) or to take a Written Final Exam based on Readings and Lectures for entire course.
6) Grading Policy: HKS guidelines for grading

Collaboration in Written Work: Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices in this discipline and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you receive any help with your writing (e.g., feedback on drafts), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

Source: Harvard University Course Syllabus – Gov 20: Foundations of Comparative Politics, Professor Steven Levitsky, Fall 2013
III. Course Outline

I. Introduction: Options for an Ethic of War
II. Shaping the Ethic: Theology, Philosophy, Law
   A. The Just War Ethic: History and Structure
   B. Law, Morality and War
III. Testing the Ethic: Themes and Cases
   A. Politics and War in the Nuclear Age
      1. The Past 1945-1990: The Event, the Consequences and the Doctrines
      2. The Present 1990-2016: The Challenge of Politics and Proliferation
      3. Cases: - Iran and the Middle East
         - North Korea and East Asia
         - Non-State Actors
      4. Going to Zero: The Proposal
      5. Great Power Politics in a New Century: U.S.- Russia – China
      6. The Gulf War (1990-91)
   B. Internal Conflict and Humanitarian Military Intervention
      1. Intervention: History and Concepts
      2. The HMI Debate
      3. The Balkans: Bosnia to Kosovo
      4. Africa: Somalia, Rwanda and DRC
      5. Mid-East: Libya and Bahrain
   C. Modern Terrorism and Responses
      1. The 9-11 Attack: Its Character
      2. Responding to Terror: Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan
      3. Syria: The State, the Region and Chaos
      4. ISIS: The Nature of the Threat and Responses to It
   D. New Weapons: Drones and Cyber
   E. The United Nations: Then and Now

IV. Conclusion

IV. Required Readings

January 25:


January 30 and February 1:


February 6:


February 8:


February 13:


February 15:


February 22:


February 27:


March 1:


2. Fyodor Lukyanov, “The Quest to Restore Russia’s Rightful Place” Foreign Affairs, 95, #3 (2016) pp.30-37


March 6:


March 8 and 20:


March 22:


March 27:


March 29:


April 3:


April 5:

1. President Obama, *West Point Address* (Dec. 2009)
2. President Obama, *West Point Commencement* (May 28, 2014)

April 10:


April 12:


April 17:

1. Audrey Kurth Cronin, “ISIS is not a Terrorist Group”, *Foreign Affairs* 94 (Mar-Apr. 2015) pp. 87-98
April 19:


April 24:

1. *Report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change* (UN Website)