AHUM 25A15 - Ethics of War and Peace

Course Description

This course will discuss a classical issue for international relations and political theory: the ethics of war. It will exemplify the role of norms in warfare and discuss the major dilemmas that face armies, politicians, and civilians in different moments of time (past war, current period, future). Its focus is mainly interdisciplinary as it brings together moral and political philosophy, international law and international relations. It will draw examples from different disciplines (history, sociology, philosophy), explain certain phenomena such as why states go or not go to war, discuss legally and morally the coherence of certain rationales and principles aiming at justifying the use of force, and finally explore future challenges of the field (cyberwar, artificial intelligence). Ultimately, the course aims at providing the students with concepts and references they can deploy to build their own argument on justice and war.

Enseignants

Amélie FEREY,Laure DE ROCHEGONDE

Type

Cours magistral seul

Language of tuition

English

Semester

Autumn and Spring 2021-2022

Course validation

A final written exam (2 hours essay)

Pedagogical format

Semester roadmap Session 1 â€" Introduction â€' What is ethics? Thought experiment â€' Three ethical paradigms : consequentialism, deontology, ethics of virtue â€' The ethics of war: criteria and historical roots â€' Other approaches: Pacifism / Realism / Just war / Cosmopolitan wars Session 2 â€" Jus ad bellum : Who should wage war and when? â€' Jus ad bellum: the fundamental criteria â€' Defining the legitimate authority â€' Looking for the right intention â€' Chances of success and the Gamble of war â€' Declaring or not declaring war, that is the question â€' Defining legitimate defense â€' Preventive or preemptive war? â€' Defining a just cause : Humanitarian intervention and responsibility to protect â€' Politics of war: the West and the Rest Session 3 â€" Jus in bello (I) : How wars should be fought â€' Criteria of Jus in bello â€' Defining the principle of proportionality â€' Historical turning points: Second World War and the debate between attrition and strategic bombing â€' Protecting civilian populations â€' Environmental protection? Session 4 â€" Jus in bello (II): The ethics of weapons â€' Jus in bello: the concept of fighting justly â€' Illegal, illegitimate and inhumane weapons â€' The doctrine of double effect â€' Are weapons utilization restrained by norms or by taboo? â€' Chemical weapons: from World War I to Syria, the doom or the rise of a norm? â€' Nuclear weapons: taboo, dissuasion and balance of power â€' Incendiary weapons â€" the trajectory of napalm utilization: does ethics impact practices of war? Session 5 â€" Toward an ethics of violence? â€' Defining war, defining peace â€' Ethical principles of the use of force â€œshort of warâ€ â€' Ethics of Intelligence and Espionage â€' Ethical principles of the jus ad vim : acting in the grey zones â€' Hybrid wars: a new type of conflict that requires a new ethics? â€' What is the difference between terrorism and insurrection? Session 6 â€" The future of war (I): the Ethics of cyber â€' Definitions in the cyberworld â€' History of cyber warfare â€' Cyber warfare versus traditional warfare â€' The multiple dimensions of cyber warfare â€' Rethinking the Ethics of war at the cyber age? â€' The limits of International Humanitarian Law â€' Current and future ethical challenges of cyberwarfare Session 7 â€" The future of war (II): â€œKiller robotsâ€ and Artificial Intelligence â€' Ethics and new technologies: a gap impossible to bridge? â€' What is a killer robot? The case of LAWS (Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems) â€' Killer robots vs augmented soldiers (transhumanism) â€' Artificial intelligence in war: toward new practicesâ€¦ â€' â€¦ and toward new ethical principles ? â€' What does International Humanitarian Law say on the future of war? â€' Ethics or not ethics for the future of war? Session 8 â€" Ethics of War in Space â€' Spatial military capacities â€' Il and Space: towards lawfare â€' Taking into account environmental concerns in Ethics of War Session 9 â€" Jus post bellum: How to end wars? â€' History of Jus post bellum â€' Should one save failed States? â€' Peacekeeping operations versus occupation â€' Postwar justice and reconstruction â€' Is there an obligation toward peace? â€' Iraq versus Syria â€' Just post bellum and Jus ex bellum Session 10 â€" Ethics of War in times of Peace: information warfare - Propaganda, public diplomacy, information warfare - Cognition in grey zones - Weaponization of narrative and attrition Session 11 â€" Assessing the limits and the benefits of Ethics of war - Is the Ethics of War a Western ethics? - The feminist critique of Ethics of War - Exploring other traditions of Ethics : Judaism and Islam - Moral entrepreneurs: Ethics of war as an instrument in the war of narratives - Are there national approaches of Ethics of War? - Q & A on the final exam Session 12 â€" Final exam

Lectures conseillées / Recommended readings

Lectures principales / Main readings

Michael Doyle, A Few Words on Mills, Walzer and Nonintervention, Ethics of International Affairs 23:4 (Winter 2009) pp. 349-369.

Disponible / Available

- [Doyle, Michael W. « A Few Words on Mill, Walzer, and Nonintervention », Ethics __EPERLUET__ international affairs. 2009, vol.23 no 4. p. 349â€'369.](#)

Lectures secondaires / Main readings

Pierre Hassner (ed.), Justifying War? From Humanitarian Intervention to Counterterrorism, New York, Palgrave, 2009.

Disponible / Available

- [Andréani Gilles, Centre de recherches internationales de Sciences Po, France Ministère des affaires étrangères Centre dâ€™ analyse et de prévision, et al. Justifying warâ€¯?â€¯: from humanitarian intervention to counterterrorism. New York : Palgrave Macmillan. 2008.](#)

Ward Thomas, The Ethics of Destruction Norms and Force in International Relations, Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2002.

Disponible / Available

- [Thomas Ward. The ethics of destructionâ€¯: norms and force in international relations. Ithaca : Cornell University Press. 2001.](#)

Ariel Merari, (1993), Terrorism as a strategy of Insurgency, Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol.5, No. 4 (Winter 1993), pp.213-251.

Disponible / Available

- [Ariel Merari, "Terrorism as a strategy of Insurgency", Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol.5, No. 4 (Winter 1993), pp.213-251](#)

Michael Walzer, The Triumph Of Just War (and the dangers of its success), Social Research, vol. 69, n°4, p. 925-944.

Disponible / Available

- [Walzer, Michael. « The Triumph of Just War Theory (and the Dangers of Success) », Social research. 2002, vol.69 no 4. p. 925â€'944.](#)

John Kelsay, Just war as a social practice, Ethics & International Affairs, 27(1), 67-86.

Disponible / Available

- [Kelsay, John. « Just War Thinking as a Social Practice », Ethics __EPERLUET__ international affairs. 2013, vol.27 no 1. p. 67â€'86.](#)