



# Global Justice

## Professor Nicholas Tampio

Hamilton College, Fall 2007, GOV 383

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Class hours: TR 2:30-3:45, KJ 242

Office hours: TR 4-5, KJ 135

## Course Overview

The term “global justice” is both ancient and a neologism. Globe derives from the Latin *globus*, meaning “round mass, or sphere,” and has been applied to “planet earth” since the sixteenth century. Justice, in ancient Greece, originally meant authoritative custom, or the traditional manner of doing things, but early on shifted to that which should be enforced by authorities in the form of law (Latin, *jus*). Global justice, then, means the moral and political laws that apply to all human beings who share the planet. The Greek Stoics considered themselves lovers of humanity, or cosmopolitans, and today we increasingly recognize that our fates intertwine across the globe.

This course considers the content and realization of global justice. We pursue this agenda by engaging several profound thinkers of global justice, beginning with Immanuel Kant, whose essay “Toward Perpetual Peace” continues to shape modern conceptions of cosmopolitanism. Next, we consider John Rawls’s updating of Kant’s theory in *The Law of Peoples*. Then, we examine Martha Nussbaum’s Aristotelian account of cultural universals in *Sex and Social Justice*, Samuel Huntington’s advocacy of Western hegemony in *The Clash of Civilizations*, Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri’s postulation of a radical political subjectivity in *Multitude*, Sayyid Qutb’s description of *Social Justice in Islam*, and Pema Chödrön’s call for *Practicing Peace in Times of War*. The course aims, in short, to construct a Socratic dialogue about global justice between profound representatives of diverse schools of thought: liberalism, feminism, conservatism, Marxism, Islam, and Buddhism.

Throughout, we test each author’s ideas by how well they help us grasp contemporary issues of global justice, including human rights, American foreign policy, international trade agreements, war, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the Olympics. Students are encouraged to form a mental map of the world and the flows across by it by reading the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Economist*, and other international journals and newspapers.

The hope is that by weighing contending theories, in the light of world events, we may clarify our own thinking and practice about global justice.

## Texts

Immanuel Kant, *Toward Perpetual Peace* (Yale University Press)  
John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard University Press)  
Martha C. Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice* (Oxford University Press)  
Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations* (Simon & Schuster)  
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Multitude* (Penguin)  
Sayyid Qutb, *Social Justice in Islam* (Islamic Publications International)  
Pema Chödrön, *Practicing Peace in Times of War* (Shambhala)

## Course Requirements

*Kant Essay*: Immanuel Kant's essay, "Towards Perpetual Peace," is perhaps the most famous account of cosmopolitanism in modern Western philosophy. Write a 5-7 page essay explaining Kant's conception of global justice and how we may achieve it. Due **September 11**.

*Presentation Paper*: The last class on each theorist (except Kant) is dedicated to a discussion of what the philosopher would say about a current political debate or controversy. Early in the semester I will assign students to groups. On the day your group leads discussion, each student will turn in to me, and present to the class, a 10 page research project on how the philosopher helps us grasp questions of global justice.

Tips for research project:

- Find a concrete topic, e.g., the Kyoto treaty, the war in Darfur, American treatment of detainees, the WTO and avian flu, humanitarian responses to floods or earthquakes, a movie or book (e.g., *300*, *The World is Flat*), microfinance, etc.
- Read recent articles on the topic in *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *The Nation*, *The National Review*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Time*, or other reputable periodicals.
- Research academic articles in *The American Political Science Review*, *Millenium*, *Political Theory*, or other journals. Read relevant academic books. Include a bibliography.
- Insert subheadings.
- Schedule an appointment at the Writing Center.

Tips for presentation:

- Speak from an outline.
- Practice. Contact James Helmer (jhelmer@hamilton.edu) to schedule an appointment at the Oral Communication Lab.
- Look professional.

*Final Paper Proposal*: By **October 30**, turn in a 2-3 paper describing the question of your final paper, why it is important, and how you plan to answer it. This serves as a draft of the introduction to your final paper. You may change your topic after this date.

*Bibliography:* By **November 13**, submit a 2 page bibliography for your final paper.

*Final Paper:* The culmination of the course is a 20-25 page essay due in my mailbox, noon, **December 11** comparing at least 2 authors on the syllabus on a topic related to globalization. Possibilities include:

- “Huntington, Qutb, and the Clash of Civilizations”
- “Women’s Rights in American Foreign Policy”
- “The Battle Against Third-World Sweatshops”
- “Is a Global Environmental Movement Possible?”
- “The Campaign for African Debt Relief”
- “Protecting the Rainforest”
- “Soccer and Global Justice”

*Class Participation:* Students are expected to come to class with the text, notes, and questions on the material. Students are also expected to attend the major political theory lectures at Hamilton this fall, including:

- September 7 – Leslie Paul Thiele, ‘Social Justice’ 9:30 am Science Auditorium
- October 18 – Langdon Winner, “Information Technology and the Dream of Democratic Renewal.” 7:30 pm Science Auditorium
- TBD – Harvey Mansfield

*Final Grade Distribution:*

10% - Kant Essay  
20% - Presentation Paper  
10% - Presentation  
10% - Research Paper Proposal  
10% - Research Paper Bibliography  
30% - Research Paper  
10% - Class Participation

## **Class Schedule**

### **1. August 28 – Introduction**

“Toward Perpetual Peace,” First Section

**2. August 30** – Lynn Mayo, the social science research librarian, will discuss research methods.

### **3. September 4 – Kant’s Articles of Perpetual Peace**

“Toward Perpetual Peace,” Second Section

### **4. September 6 – Kant’s Guarantee of Perpetual Peace**

“Toward Perpetual Peace,” First Supplement

**5. September 11 – Rawls’s Liberal Vision**

*The Law of Peoples*, Introduction, Part I

**6. September 13 – Rawls and Decent Peoples**

*The Law of Peoples*, Part II

**7. September 18 – Rawls and Just War**

*The Law of Peoples*, Parts III and IV

**8. September 20 – Rawls and Global Justice**

**9. September 25 – Nussbaum’s Feminist Vision**

*Sex and Social Justice*, Chapter 1

**10. September 27 – Nussbaum’s Critique of Liberalism**

*Sex and Social Justice*, Chapter 2

**11. October 2 – Nussbaum and Women’s Human Rights**

*Sex and Social Justice*, Chapter 3

**12. October 4 – Nussbaum and Global Justice**

**13. October 9 – Huntington’s Conservative Vision**

*The Clash of Civilizations*, Chapters 1-3

**14. October 11 – Huntington and the Clashes of Civilizations**

*The Clash of Civilizations*, Chapters 8-12

**15. October 18** – Langdon Winner, an expert on the politics and philosophy of technology, will attend class to discuss:

"Sow's Ears from Silk Purses: The Strange Alchemy of Technological Visionaries."

**16. October 23 – Huntington and Global Justice**

October 25 – No class.

**17. October 30 – Hardt and Negri’s Marxist Vision**

*Multitude*, Preface; 1.1

**18. November 1 – Hardt, Negri, and Multitude**

*Multitude*, 2.1; Excursus 2

**19. November 6 – Hardt, Negri, and Democracy**

*Multitude*, 3.2; 3.3

**20. November 8 – Hardt, Negri, and Global Justice**

**21. November 13 – Qutb’s Islamic Vision**

*Social Justice in Islam*, Chapters 1-3

**22. November 15 – Qutb and the Political-Economic Theory of Islam**

*Social Justice in Islam*, Chapters 1-6

**23. November 20 – Qutb and the Prospects of Islam**

*Social Justice in Islam*, Chapters 8-9

**24. November 27 – Qutb and Global Justice**

**25. November 29 – Pema Chödrön’s Buddhist Vision**

*Practicing Peace in Times of War*, Chapters 1-3

**26. December 4 – Pema Chödrön and Compassionate Abiding**

*Practicing Peace in Times of War*, Chapters 4-6

**27. December 6 – Pema Chödrön and Global Justice**

\* Final paper due noon, December 11, in my mailbox.