## WESTERN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16

Philosophy 2810G Human Rights and Global Justice

Winter Term 2016 Instructor: Dean Proessel

M: 12:30-1:30, W: 12:30-2:30 Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:30

Classroom: TC 205 dproesse@uwo.ca

## DESCRIPTION

In this course we will examine some key works of normative political philosophy on the topic of global justice and human rights. Questions to be considered include: Is global justice possible in a diverse and unequal world? Are there universal principles of justice that apply to all peoples of the world? Or, do we have special obligations to our fellow compatriots? Do people have a right to be free from poverty? Is the language of rights adequate for addressing the problem of global poverty? Who is responsible for alleviating such poverty and what constitutes a just distribution of benefits from rich to poor? Do people have a right to immigrate and what kind of right is this? Who owns natural resources and should there be a global redistribution of natural resources? Who is responsible for the harms of climate change? In addressing these and other questions, we will, in particular, work towards understanding the recent shift in political philosophy towards cosmopolitan conceptions of global justice and human rights, including criticisms of such conceptions. Our investigation will draw on works from key thinkers including Immanuel Kant, John Rawls, Charles Beitz, Peter Singer, Thomas Pogge, Martha Nussbaum, David Miller, Iris Marion Young and Seyla Benhabib

## TEXTS

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