

COURSE DETAIL

ETHICS OF CONTEMPORARY WAR

Country

Netherlands

Host Institution

Leiden University College

Program(s)

Leiden University College

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science Philosophy

UCEAP Course Number

152

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

ETHICS OF CONTEMPORARY WAR

UCEAP Transcript Title

ETHICS CONTEMP WAR

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

This course explores the moral and ethical issues raised by contemporary warfare. In the first part of the course, students are introduced to the dominant Western frameworks for moral reasoning about the use of force in world politics: pacifism, realism, and the just war tradition. The course explores the historical and religious roots of these traditions, and the major streams of thinking within them. In the second and third parts of the course, the focus is on the just war tradition, applying its concepts and principles to a range of important issues in contemporary warfare that present challenges to the just war tradition as it is conventionally formulated. These include jus ad bellum questions about non-state actors and anticipatory war; jus in bello questions about targeted killing and supreme emergencies; and jus post bellum questions about post-conflict responsibilities. These issues are explored through case studies drawn from recent conflicts, especially the US-led War on Terror. Students are encouraged to think about whether the traditions of ethical reasoning about war inherited from earlier generations remain adequate to guide our judgment of contemporary warfare, or whether they need to be revised. Prerequisites for this course are an introduction to peace and conflict studies and an intermediate-level course in a relevant field.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

Host Institution Course Title

ETHICS OF CONTEMPORARY WAR

Host Institution Campus

LUC The Hague- Level 3

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

World Politics

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