

Global Justice
Fall 2021
Chapman University

Course Description

This course considers what duties, if any, the global affluent have to help the global poor. The global poor includes those living in extreme poverty, defined in 2015 as living on less than \$1.90 a day. Extreme poverty as a share of the global population has declined precipitously over the past few decades, despite the total population increasing overall—from in excess of 40% of the world's population in 1980 to roughly 10% now. Nevertheless, alleviating global poverty is one of the most pressing moral challenges wealthy countries face today. This course has two parts. First, we explore the nature of duties *individuals* have to aid the global poor through such things as charitable donations. We consider whether this duty is based in benevolence or justice, and whether this duty to give also extends to where and how we give. Next, we examine the nature of the duties *nations* have to aid the global poor by permitting immigration. One effective way of raising the living standards of the world's poor is to permit them to work in wealthy countries. Unrestricted immigration would greatly raise the living standards of the world's worst off. But it would also affect the standards of those already living in wealthy nations, changing the character of their communities and potentially harming their economic prospects by creating a much more competitive labor market. We focus on this trade-off in the final few weeks of the course.

Reading Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- Course overview
- Thomas Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice"

Week 2: Duties to the global poor

- Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"

Week 3:

- Cecil Fabre, "Good Samaritanism: A Matter of Justice"
- David Schmitz, "Islands in a Sea of Obligation"

Week 4: Doing/allowing harm

- Fiona Woollard, "The Distinction Between Doing and Allowing"
- Fiona Woollard, "Saving Strangers: Duties to Prevent Harm"

Week 5: Effective altruism

- Elizabeth Ashford, "Severe Poverty as an Unjust Emergency"

Week 6: Effective altruism

- Larry Temkin, "Being Good in a World of Need"
- William MacAskill, "Aid Scepticism and Effective Altruism"

Week 7:

- Review
- **Exam #1**

Week 8: Territories

- Robert Goodin, "What is so special about our fellow countrymen?"

- Anna Stilz, “Nations, States, and Territory”

Week 9: A world state?

- Immanuel Kant “Perpetual Peace”

Week 10: Immigration

- Van der Vossen and Brennan, *In Defense of Openness*, chapters 1-2
- Van der Vossen and Brennan, *In Defense of Openness*, chapters 3-4

Week 11:

- Van der Vossen and Brennan, *In Defense of Openness*, chapters 5-6
- Van der Vossen and Brennan, *In Defense of Openness*, chapters 7-8;

Week 12:

- Van der Vossen and Brennan, *In Defense of Openness*, chapters 9-10
- Van der Vossen and Brennan, *In Defense of Openness*, chapters 11-Postscript

Week 13: **Thanksgiving Break No Class**

Week 14:

- Hrishikesh Joshi, “Is Liberalism Committed to Its Own Demise?”

Week 15:

- Review