

SYLLABUS

FYS 037: *The Ethics of Harming and Killing*

Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-1:45pm

Drake University

Harvey Ingham Hall 0019B

Instructor Information

Instructor: Blake Hereth

Email: blake.hereth@drake.edu (alternate: pacifistphilosopher@gmail.com)

Office Location: Medbury 103

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:00pm (or by appointment)

Google Hangout Office Hours: by appointment

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

Formulate and identify good (deductively valid) arguments

Write a quality philosophical paper

Think critically about issues in the ethics of harming and killing

Course Materials

Required:

Helen Frowe. (2011) *The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction* (First Edition). New York: Routledge.

Louis P. Pojman and Jeffrey Reiman. (1997) *The Death Penalty: For and Against*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield.

Required readings not found in either textbook will be made available by the instructor.

Assignments & Grade Weighting

Assignments:

Attendance/Participation	20%
Logic Exam 1	5%
Logic Exam 2	15%
Paper 1	5%
Paper 2	20%
Paper 3	35%

Important Dates:

September 9 th	Logic Exam 1
September 30 th	Paper 1
November 4 th	Paper 2
November 11 th	Logic Exam 2
December 10 th	Paper 3

Grading Scale:

“A”:	90% and above
“B”:	80-89%
“C”:	70-79%
“D”:	60-69%
“F”:	59% and below

A final word on grading: I have, in the past, improved a student’s grade beyond what she/he has mathematically earned. While this has been rare, I reserve the right to do it again. However, I will never reduce a student’s grade beyond what she/he has mathematically earned.

Policies

Contacting Me: I love to hear from students and encourage you to email me at any time with questions relevant to your success in the course, or even because of a general interest in discussing philosophy.

Attendance: Attendance is required and, along with participation, is part of your course grade. If you miss class, you are responsible for any material presented. It is in your best interest to attend class regularly. You will receive two excused skips for this class, and after that (except under very special circumstances) your absences will count against you.

Academic Dishonesty: It’s my policy to take academic dishonesty very seriously. If it seems to me that you’re engaged in any academic dishonesty, I will be strongly inclined to report it. Any academic dishonesty might result in the strongest possible consequences permitted by the university.

Plagiarism: It’s my policy to take plagiarism very seriously – even more seriously in many cases than general acts of academic dishonesty. As per my policy on general academic dishonesty, I’m strongly inclined to report anything that seems suspicious (in this case, something that appears plagiarized). Know that plagiarism is considered a particularly grave case of academic dishonesty and can result in severe consequences if discovered.

Cell phones/laptops: The use of cell phones in class is strictly prohibited. Laptops are permitted, but only for class purposes. If I discover that you’re using a cell phone in class, you will be dismissed from class. If I discover that you’re using a laptop for something other

than class purposes, you will be dismissed from class and will not be permitted to use your laptop in class for a month.

Weather: Unless you hear from me or receive a weather alert from the university (or a local weather station), you should assume that class will occur as scheduled.

Late assignments: All assignment should be submitted when they are due. However, I recognize that there are possible justifications for not submitting an assignment at its due date. If you believe you won't turn in an assignment on time, let me know at least a day prior to the assignment's due date. If something comes up and you accidentally miss an assignment, let me know immediately. In both cases, in order to receive credit for a late assignment, I must explicitly approve your excuse(s) and you must do exactly what I instruct regarding the assignment. If you fail to fulfill these requirements, you will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. If you do fulfill these requirements, you will receive the grade your work deserves, and I will not reduce your grade for its tardiness.

Discrimination: Drake University does not condone discriminatory treatment of students, faculty, or staff on the basis of age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, race, religious commitment, sex, gender, sexual identity, or sexual orientation in any of the activities conducted on this campus. It is the duty of each of you to treat every person with respect and dignity, including yourselves. Stand up for others and equally for yourself. I will investigate any and every charge of discriminatory behavior, and will report anyone who engages in discriminatory behavior to Drake University.

Disabilities: If you have a disability and will require academic accommodations in this course, I would be happy to discuss your needs. Accommodations are coordinated through Student Disability Services. Please contact Michelle Laughlin, Director of Student Disability Services, at 515-281-1835 or michelle.laughlin@drake.edu.

Writing: All writing assignments (unless otherwise permitted by me) should conform to the following guidelines:

Top Left Corner:	course name and number, instructor's name, student's name and ID#, due date
Font:	Times New Roman, size 12
Spacing:	double-spaced (2.0)
Margins:	standard 1-inch
Citation Formatting:	any standard formatting (e.g. APA, MLA)
Page Numbers:	bottom, center
Header/Footer:	none needed

Course Content Note: We will cover topics related to harming and killing, such as abortion and war. These are not the easiest topics to think through dispassionately. Some students might find our discussions disturbing or even traumatizing. If you ever feel the need to step outside during one of these discussions, either for a short time or for

the rest of the class session, you may always do so without academic penalty. (You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually. If this happens too often, I may ask for a make-up assignment to be submitted.) If you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to this material, either with the class or with me afterwards, I welcome such discussion as an appropriate part of our coursework.

Reading Schedule

What follows is a tentative list of topics and readings that I hope to address over the course of the semester. We might not get to all of the readings or even most of them, but I will keep you updated on the expected reading assignments each week.

“EWP” is shorthand for the Frowe textbook. “DP” is shorthand for the Pojman & Reiman textbook. All other readings will be given to you by the instructor.

TOPICS	READINGS
<i>Class Intro: Syllabus</i>	Syllabus
<i>Logic: How to Make a Good Argument</i>	Handout(s)
<i>Self-Defense</i>	EWP, 9-28 Judith Jarvis Thomson, “Self-Defense”
<i>War: Just Like Self-Defense?</i>	EWP, 29-38
<i>War: Jus ad Bellum (“Just Cause for War”)</i>	EWP, 50-71

<i>War: Jus in Bello (“Justice in War”)</i>	<i>EWP</i> , 95-117
<i>War: Jus Post Bellum (“Justice After War”)</i>	<i>EWP</i> , 208-229
<i>Terrorism</i>	<i>EWP</i> , 168-189

<i>Torture</i>	<i>EWP</i> , 190-207
<i>Abortion</i>	Judith Jarvis Thomson, “A Defense of Abortion” Donald Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”
<i>Euthanasia</i>	James Rachels, “Active and Passive Euthanasia”
<i>Animal Ethics</i>	Tom Regan, “Empty Cages: Animal Rights and Vivisection” William B. Irvine, “Cannibalism, Vegetarianism, and Narcissism”
<i>Capital Punishment</i>	<i>DP</i> , 1-66 <i>DP</i> , 67-132