

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome International Relations Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	Ethics and Global Policies
Course Number:	POL 304
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	A lower-level Political Science course and Junior or Senior standing or permission of the instructor

Course description

This course encompasses a wide range of issues including the historical and political backgrounds underlying the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its global policy implications. Modern bioethical topics such as cloning, euthanasia, abortion and the death penalty are extensively discussed. Special emphasis is placed on global, paradigmatic public health issues, such as the psychoactive drugs' worldwide spread and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, whose social, political and economic impact is illustrated in the broader context of the struggle for Human Rights and respect for existing cultural diversities.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, New York : UN Publications, 1948
- Howard Zinn : A People's History of the United States, HarperCollins, New York, 2003

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. understand the present world's most controversial policy issues, and be able to place them in their appropriate ethical context
2. recognize/identify the ethical vision underlying any given ideology/policy (ethical vs. secular, emotional vs. rational, Human and Civil Rights-driven vs. specific interests-driven, etc.)
3. by constantly referring to the Universal Declaration's consensus ethical standard, to weigh the different viewpoints, values and priorities at stake when dealing with the great issues presented
4. develop research, written and oral presentation skills (information literacy and oral presentation embedded components)

Course Learning Activities

- Lectures and discussions
Regular attendance of the lectures will provide the students with the necessary basic knowledge and mastery of the subject. The course will be in great part Power-Point-based. (LOs 1,2,3).
- Quizzes
Quizzes accurately reflect the specific knowledge of the students. (LOs 1,2)
- Question and answer sessions
Each week time will be provided for brief question/answer sessions. Active participation is strongly encouraged.
Analysis and discussion of selected paragraphs of the required textbook, and the reference textbooks, will complement the lectures and help develop technical reading skills and how to interpret such texts. (LOs 2,3,4)
- Oral Presentations and Term Papers
During the second half-semester, each student is required to give an oral presentation on a specific research assignment. The oral presentation is aimed at testing the ability of the students to investigate the assigned subject, master it, effectively present their point and argue it convincingly. Each students also has to present a term paper on the same subject of the oral presentation, respecting assigned length and format requirements, within an assigned deadline. (LOs 2,3,4)
- Midterm exam
The midterm exam consists of a short essay (1000 words) to be written in class on a selection of subjects treated during the first half-semester. It is aimed at testing the ability of the students to illustrate a broad subject, cutting across a number of concrete examples or specific issues treated (e.g., a comparative analysis of ethical and secular state approaches, etc.). The midterm exam consists of a general overview and requires the ability to structure an argument in a good, clear and concise English, making their points as an introduction, mentioning the appropriate supportive issues as a core idea, and reaching a meaningful conclusion. (LOs 1,2,3,4)
- Final exam
For their final test, students have to write five short answers (250 words) on different subjects and correctly answer 20 specific questions. This is mainly aimed at testing their very knowledge of the subjects treated, and hence reflects their learning efforts and the attention they have paid to what was explained in class. The questions refer to all lectures (at least one and at most two questions for each lecture), so that the number of correct answers results in a statistically balanced mean accurately reflecting the students' degree of learning and attendance throughout the course. (LOs 1,2,3,4)

Assessment tools

Class participation	10%
Quizzes	10%
Term Paper	15%
Mid-term Exam	20%
Oral presentation	15%
Final Exam	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic
Week 1	Overview (C.L.A. 1) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as a result of both historical experience and universally recognized human needs. The UDHR as a result of worldwide consensus among different existing cultures and traditions (C.L.A. 1 & 3) (textbook pages 1 – 76)
Week 2	Significance of the main articles of the UDHR; Apartheid and other historical examples of gross Human Rights' violations (C.L.A. 1 & 3) (C.L.A. 1 & 3) Main agencies of the United Nations (UN) and Non Governmental Organizations (ONG) and their humanitarian policies (C.L.A. 1 & 3) (textbook pages 77 – 148)
Week 3	Colonialism/neocolonialism (C.L.A. 1 & 3) First Quiz (C.L.A. 2) (textbook pages 149 – 210)
Week 4	Religion and politics (C.L.A. 1 & 3) Guest Lecture (C.L.A. 1 & 3) (textbook pages 469 - 540)
Week 5	The policy of "humanitarian intervention" by the UN; peace and war (C.L.A. 1 & 3) The humanitarian approach of the UN in the policies aimed at assisting neglected populations and discriminated ethnic minorities (such as "street children", indigenous populations, prostitutes, refugees, prisoners and other underprivileged and marginalized groups) (C.L.A. 1 & 3) (textbook pages 541 - 600)
Week 6	The history of psychotropic drug dependence and the present situation. The UN drug policies (supply, demand and harm reduction). The dilemma prohibitionism/ antiprohibitionism (C.L.A. 1 & 3) History of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and of its worldwide social, political and economic impact. The HIV/AIDS Public Health (PH) paradigm as a result of the historical development of the PH concept. The struggle against disease/infection within the broader context of the struggle for Human Rights; women and AIDS (C.L.A. 1 & 3) (601 – 688)
Week 7	Review of the previous lectures (C.L.A. 1 & 3) Mid-term test (C.L.A. 5)
Week 8	Glossary part I (C.L.A. 1& 3) Glossary part II (C.L.A. 1&3)
Week 9	Bioethical topics : review and analysis of the different cultural and religious stands on euthanasia and abortion (C.L.A. 1 & 3) Second Quiz (C.L.A. 2) ; review of mid-term test and logical fallacies (C.L.A. 1 & 3)
Week 10	Oral presentations, and general discussion, on peace and war (C.L.A. 4) Oral presentations, and general discussion, on colonialism/neocolonialism (C.L.A. 4)
Week 11	Oral presentations, and general discussion, on religions and politics (C.L.A. 4) Oral presentations, and general discussion, on drug policies (C.L.A. 4)
Week 12	Oral presentations, and general discussion, on HIV/AIDS policies (C.L.A. 4) Oral presentations, and general discussion, on sexual orientations (C.L.A. 4)
Week 13	Review and conclusions (C.L.A. 3)
Week 14	FINAL EXAM

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please refer to the Provost's Office list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will normally not be counted as an absence.

Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No Instructor may penalize a student more than half a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		