

## Ethics in the Era of Globalization (2022.2-2022.6)

**Class hours: Mon 15:20-16:55**

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Globalization is an unprecedented phenomenon in our times. As various regions in the world are becoming more and more connected with each other politically, economically and culturally, they often differ from each other regarding moral values. Consequently, conflict and convergence of these moral views are an important part of globalization process. Based on in-depth analysis of the dynamism of globalization, this course is going to investigate some related ethic disputes. The selected topics focus on the impact of globalization on traditional moral values in different regions, and the emergence of new ethic value out of globalization. Topics include capitalistic ethics, social equality, universal value, religion, ideology, nationalism, environmental protection, philanthropy and foreign aid, intellectual property among others. The course is to combine reading of ethics classics with current international practice. It lays emphasis on critical thinking, disruptive research and open discussion.

**Course Objectives:** 1) systematically study ethic issues related to globalization 2) learn and practice the theoretical approaches of ethic discussion 3) learn critical thinking on ethic value issues

**Methodology:** lecture and discussion

**Evaluation and grading:** 1. Class contribution 25%, 2. Class Presentation 25%, 4. Two Essays 50%

Class contribution: In order to ensure a strong class contribution grade, you must be prepared for each and every class. **This means that you must be able to respond to, or to raise questions about the texts, or to complete basic written and verbal quizzes.** The class participation grade will be considerably reduced in the case of students who reveal that they have not completed the assigned reading by their inability to answer basic questions about the text. Students who consistently contribute to the class discussion will be rewarded for their hard work. Absence and lateness will affect your grade.

Class Presentation: In each class, several students study and present the assigned reading materials concisely. They need to guide the class discussion addressing the following points: 1. What are the authors' main points? 2. How does globalization change ethic values? 3. Do you agree with the ethic values discussed by the authors?

The grading will be based on the preciseness and clarity of presentation. The key is to encourage *interactive* discussion.

The talk time of each presentation should not exceed 15 minutes, but interactive discussion can last longer. The presenters need to submit their presentation/summary after the class.

Essays: Each student should write two short essays on the following topics. The responses should be related to the given readings. Critical analysis and creative interpretation are important criteria for evaluation. The length usually ranges between 1000-1200 words. They should be sent to the TA [xiaoqj16@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn](mailto:xiaoqj16@mails.tsinghua.edu.cn) by the respective deadlines.

Essay 1. Please choose one of the ethical values below and explain its nature and implication. A key question is **to which extent** these values can be considered as globally/universally valid.

**a. (Technological) Progress   b. Freedom   c. Democracy**

Submission deadline: April 30, 2021

Essay 2. Please choose one of the topics below to discuss how their ethical implications are altered during modernization and globalization.

**a. Religion      b. Nationalism      c. Ideology**

Submission deadline: June 18, 2021

**Schedule**

**Session 1 Introduction: Meaning of Ethics**

Reading: Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I

**Session 2 Characteristics of Globalization**

Reading: Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*, Part I  
Martin Wolf, *Why Globalization Works*, Part II

**Session 3 Global Drive of Capitalism**

Reading: Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations*, Book I  
Karl Marx *Capital* Vol. I Ch. 1 “Commodity” and Ch. 4 “From Money to Capital”;  
Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* “Bourgeois and Proletarians”

**Session 4 Ethics of Capitalism**

Reading: Max Weber: *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* Introduction and Ch.2 “The Spirit of Capitalism”  
Karl Polanyi, *Great Transformation*, Ch. 4

**Session 5 Role of Technology**

Reading: Martin Heidegger: “The Question Concerning Technology” in *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays*, Garland Publishing, 1977 pp.3-35    Herbert Marcuse: “Some Social Implications of Modern Technology” in *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*, Ed. A. Arato and E. Gebhardt, Continuum Publishing 1982, pp 138-162.

**Session 6 Justification of Moral Laws**

Reading: Christine Korsgaard, “The Sources of Normativity”, pp. 21-76

**Session 7 Freedom and Autonomy**

Reading: Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysic of Morals* Chapter 2  
Christine Korsgaard, “The Sources of Normativity”, pp. 77-108.  
Tang Xiaoyang: *Philosophy’s Political Duty and Political Practice*. Ch 3.

**Session 8 Goodness of Democracy**

Reading: John Rawls, "The Priority of Right and Ideas of the Good," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 17 (1988): 251–76.  
John Rawls, "On the Idea of an Overlapping Consensus," *Oxford Journal for Legal Studies* 7 (1987): 1–25

**Section 9 Universal Value**

Reading: Samuel Huntington: *The West Unique, Not Universal* (1996)  
<http://cadeiras.iscte.pt/EGGC/Huntington%20-The%20West.pdf>  
Amartya Sen: *Democracy as a Universal Value* (1999)

**Session 10 Religious Belief**

Reading: Karen Armstrong, *The Case for God*, Part II “The Modern God”

**Session 11 Ideology**

Reading: G.W.F. Hegel: *The Phenomenology of Spirit* C. Free Concrete Mind (BB) Spirit B: The Spirit in Self-Estrangement II. Enlightenment – III. Absolute Freedom and Terror Φ 538-595.

Hannah Arendt: *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, (San Diego: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1973), 470-472

Optional: Tang Xiaoyang: Philosophy’s Political Duty and Political Practice, Ch 4 II

Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology*, (New York: Prometheus Books, 1998), 36-61

**Session 12 Nationalism**

Reading: Benedict Anderson: *Imagined Communities*, Chapters 3,4,7,8

**Session 13 China’s Changing Ethics: Ideology and Nationalism**

Reading: Michael Schoenhals, “The 1978 Truth Criterion Controversy”, *The China Quarterly*, No. 126 (Jun., 1991), pp. 243-268.

Kalpana Misra, “Deng's China: From Post-Maoism to Post-Marxism”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 33, No. 42/43 (Oct. 17-30,1998), pp. 2740-2748

“Practice Is the Sole Criterion of Truth”, *Chinese Studies in Philosophy*, (1993) 25:2, 31-42

**Session 14 China’s Changing Ethics: Global Impact**

Reading: Rana Mitter, “The World China Wants: How Power Will - and Won't - Reshape Chinese Ambitions”, *Foreign Affairs* (Jan/Feb 2021), 161-174.

Tang Xiaoyang, *Coevolutionary Pragmatism: Approaches and Impacts of China-Africa Economic Cooperation*, Cambridge University Press, 2020, Ch 8 & Conclusion.

**Session 15 Review and Free Discussion**