Introduction:

In the canonical works of political thought (i.e. Plato to Marx) justice is taken to be a requirement that applies between citizen and citizen and between citizen and state: that is to say, it is taken to be something that comes into play only within the borders of political societies. In terms of the long history of political thought, the emergence of the idea of global obligations is very recent – we may date it to the path-breaking work of Peter Singer and Charles Beitz (both of whom we read, in weeks 2, 3 and 4). As one might expect, basic approaches are highly contested, and in the first part of this course we critically review five influential positions: the humanitarian rescue thesis, the “harm principle” approach, liberal cosmopolitanism, statism, and nationalism: in each case we examine the view in light of a critical response. In the second part of the course we move on to discuss six of the issues that have divided global-justice theorists: the nature of imperialism, immigration policy, exploitation, crimes against humanity, collective punishment, and climate justice.

Evaluation:

UNDERGRADUATES:
Major essay (80%), due on last day of classes (April 12). Late penalty 2% per day, but essays cannot be accepted after April 15. The essay should normally be on one of the week’s topics. Each week, two required sources are listed. A third source is also listed as “supplementary,” and your essay must take account of that reading as well as the two required readings. Further readings are discouraged (unless as a source for empirical information that you use as evidence for a point). Expected length 12-15 pages.

Participation, (20%) which means (i) attending every week, (ii) submitting by email, before the class, a question for discussion that reflects both readings and (iii) contributing helpfully to the work of the seminar. Any week in which you fail either to attend or to submit a discussion question will result in the loss of one full percentage point from the participation mark. The discussion questions must reach me by email by 4 p.m. on the day before the class. In class you may be called on to speak to the question that you have submitted.

GRADUATES:

Same as above except that (i) the Major Essay should bring together readings from two (or more) weeks, and (ii) its expected length is 15-20 pages. (iii) Graduate students may be called on at any point to give a 5 minute presentation on the supplementary reading, bringing out what it adds to the discussion of the required readings.
Week 1 (Jan 14): Introduction to the course

**Part One: Big theories**

Week 2 (Jan 21): Does distance make a difference? Humanitarianism vs Compatriot preference

Peter Singer, *One World*, Yale University Press, chapter 5
David Miller, “Reasonable Preference for Compatriots,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2005), 63-81

*Supplementary:*

Week 3 (Jan 28): Liberal cosmopolitanism I: Who owns natural resources?

[Note: these readings presuppose some basic knowledge of Rawls’ theory of justice. If you need some background, a brief extract from *A Theory of Justice* is posted on the OWL site]

Margaret Moore, “Natural resources, Territorial Right, and Global Distributive Justice,” *Political Theory* (2012), 84-107

*Supplementary:*

Week 4 (Feb 4) Liberal Cosmopolitanism II: Distributive Justice, local or global?

Beitz, “Justice and International Relations,” p. 373 to end

*Supplementary:*

Week 5 (Feb 11): A global harm principle?

Mathias Risse, “Do We Owe the Global Poor Assistance or Rectification?” *Ethics & International Affairs* (2005) 9-18.

**Reading week**

Week 6 (Feb 25): Nationalism

Robert Goodin, “What is so Special about our Fellow-Countrymen?” *Ethics* (1988), 663-86

*Supplementary:*

Part Two: Cases

Week 8 (Mar 4): What’s wrong with Colonialism?


Week 9 (Mar 11): Opening and closing borders


Week 10 (Mar 18): What (if anything) is wrong with exploitation?


*Supplementary:*

Week 11 (Mar 25): Can individuals be held responsible for global crimes?

*Supplementary:*

Week 12 (April 1): Can collectives be held responsible for global crimes?


*Supplementary:*

Week 13 (April 8): Responsibility for climate justice
Peter Singer, *One World*, chapter 2

*Supplementary:*

April 12: essay due