The responsibility of the great states is to serve and not to dominate the world.

– Harry S. Truman

The highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it.

– Lord Macaulay

The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.

– Edmund Burke

The rulers of the state are the only ones who should have the privilege of lying, either at home or abroad; they may be allowed to lie for the good of the state.

– Plato

Those in possession of absolute power can not only prophesy and make their prophecies come true, but they can also lie and make their lies come true.

– Eric Hoffer

Those people who treat politics and morality separately will never understand either of them.

– Jean Jacques Rousseau

The Issues


Ethical Imperatives

▪ Public Accountability
▪ Popular Consent
▪ Neutral Competence
▪ Bureaucratic Efficiency
▪ Professional Discretion

Strategic Imperatives

▪ Principled Consistency
▪ Disciplined Restraint
▪ Balanced Reciprocity
Course Description: This course examines the nature, role, and importance of ethics in the effective conduct of statecraft. Focusing on a number of important issues – e.g., official secrecy and deception, intelligence, covert action, intervention, sanctions, technology (weapons, surveillance, communications), international human rights, domestic civil liberties, and prisoner detention and interrogation – the course seeks to determine the ethical propriety and strategic efficacy of particular uses of power in pursuit of national aims and advantage.

Class Dates/Times/Location: Tuesday, 1230-1600, Fall and Spring, online.

Instructor: Greg Foster

Required/Recommended Texts and Other Resources: There will be no required text. Assigned readings will consist of contemporary journal articles from such authoritative publications as Ethics & International Affairs, The National Interest, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and Harvard International Review, as well as recent reports from such organizations as Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, and the United Nations.

Evaluation/Grading: There will be two major components of the course grade, apportioned as follows:

- 60%: Individual Classroom Participation
- 40%: Individual Writing Assignments (2):

Course Outline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ethics, Strategy, and Statecraft: Definitional and Conceptual Foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Just War Doctrine and International Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sanctions: Violent and Nonviolent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Intervention: Protective, Preventive, Preemptive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Covert Action: Assassination, Destabilization, Illicit Trafficking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Prisoner Detention and Interrogation: Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, and Extraordinary Rendition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Technological Power (WMDs, Nonlethal Weapons, Drones, Robots, Surveillance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Intelligence and Information Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Official Secrecy and Deception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Domestic Civil Liberties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>International Human Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Summary, Synthesis, and Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>