Boston University Study Abroad London

Issues in Contemporary Politics
CAS PO 358 (Elective B)
Spring 2013

Instructor Information
A. Name Terry Sullivan

Course Objectives
This course aims to examine some of the most important and controversial issues in contemporary politics. It will focus on the origins of these issues and will analyse the diverse methodological and theoretical positions taken in explaining and understanding them. It will also draw on empirical illustration of the various issues from the international terrain. Furthermore, it will inform you of the main agents and actors involved in contemporary events and we will discuss the range of possible futures.

The choice of topics is somewhat eclectic but it is designed to discuss issues of contemporary importance. Despite the diversity of topics, the course is designed to enable you to achieve a critical understanding of different approaches to the study of politics together with knowledge of, and sensitivity to, the complexity and diversity of politics in different societies. In some cases there will be talks by specialist guest lecturers.

On successful completion of the course you should be able to demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of some of the vocabulary of politics and the languages of political debate and confrontation. You should be able to analyse critically a range of theories, concepts, and methods employed in the discipline and evidence judged by these perspectives. You should, in addition, be able to engage in an informed assessment and criticism of these positions. Above all, you should be able to adopt an independent, critical and reflective approach to some important political issues confronting contemporary societies.

Methodology
There will be lectures as well as specialist talks by expert guest lecturers and a theatre trip. You will be encouraged to participate in interactive discussions during lectures. In most lectures detailed handouts will be distributed so that more time can be devoted to listening and discussing and less to writing.

Topics Covered

All classes begin at 1.15 pm. There may be an evening theatre trip – TBC. Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders.
February 25th    Just and Unjust War: Judging Current Conflicts.
March 4th      Terrorism: Nature, Types and Responses
March 11th     Northern Ireland: From Terrorism to Peace (Paul Cousins)
March 18th     Fascism and the Contemporary Extreme Right.
March 25th     Immigration and Multiculturalism.
April 1st      No Class (Easter Monday)
April 8th      Secrecy and Security in the UK (Paul Cousins).
April 15th     Ecologism and the Environmental Crisis (Guest Speaker)
April 16th (Tuesday) The Politics of Ethical Controversies: Freedom, Drugs and Sex
April 22nd     The Politics of Ethical Controversies: Assisted Dying, Genetics etc.
April 25th     Final Examination: Two Hours (Time and place to be announced).

Assessment

1. A 1500-2000-word paper counting 50% of the final grade. The paper can be handed in at the final examination (Thursday April 25th) or earlier if you so choose. The paper needs to be firmly based in the extensive academic literature available in the BU London library and credit will be given for illustration, where relevant, from contemporary events as illustrated in media coverage during your study in London. Please reference all sources and run the title of your paper by me.

2. A two hour final examination counting 50% of the final grade. You are required to answer two questions from a wide choice of topics. Please do not answer a question on the same topic as for your paper.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism: http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester

Attendance Policy

Classes

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised
Absence Approval Form with the required doctor’s note as soon as possible). **Please note:** Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness, supported by a local London doctor’s note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases (for example, death in close family) allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

*Unauthorised Absence:*

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a 4% grade penalty to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a ‘Fail’ in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

*Lateness*

Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will require a meeting with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.
**Required Reading**

Given the eclectic nature of the course there is no prescribed text. However, you are required to read in some depth from the recommended reading list. The BU library carries copies, and in some cases multiple copies, of all texts listed. In addition, you are encouraged to seek out and purchase new and up-to-date works that you may come across, following guidance from your lecturers. You are all expected to be on top of current events and you really must purchase and read a “serious” British newspaper and/or weekly magazine from which you should keep a folder of cuttings, where relevant, on all the topics covered in the course. Please bear in mind that web-sites, whilst informative, are no substitute for sustained arguments found in academic books. It may be that you have covered some of this material previously and students have been known to submit old papers. This is called auto-plagiarism. You are expected not to do this. One measure of you working appropriately will be the references you use.

Additional reading may be found on Blackboard: [https://lms.bu.edu](https://lms.bu.edu)

**Bibliography**

**Excellent General References** (covering many topics on the course)

M. Beeson et al (eds.)  
Issues in 21st Century Politics

K. Smits  
Applying Political Theory

C. McKinnon (ed)  
Issues in Applied Political Theory.

H. Lafollette (ed)  
Ethics in Practice (3rd edition).

A. Heywood  
Global Politics

S. Burchill et al  
Theories of International Relations

**The Nature of Terrorism and the Study of War**

M. Killingsworth and others  
Conflict and Crises of Authority (in Beeson et al op cit)

T. Rockmore  
The Philosophical Challenge of September 11th

J. Sterba (ed)  
Terrorism and International Justice

M. Reichberg (ed)  
The Ethics of War

J. Seybolt  
Humanitarian Military Intervention

K. Smits  
Can Military Intervention in Other Countries be Justified on Humanitarian Grounds (Ch.11 of Smits op cit.)

C. A. Toady  
War and Intervention (ch3 of McKinnon op cit.).

J. McMahon  
Killing in War

T. Garton-Ash  
Free World.

J. Schell  
The Unconquerable World

F. Halliday  
The World at 2000

B. White, et al (eds)  
Issues in World Politics (chapters 6,7,8, 9)

I. Stewart  
War, Culture and the Media

R. Gilpin  
War and Change in World Politics

J. Cooley  
Unholy Wars
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author/Editor</th>
<th>Title/Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P. L. Bergen</td>
<td>Holy War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Kepel</td>
<td>The War for Muslim Minds: Islam and the West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. McInnes &amp; G. D. Sheffield</td>
<td>Warfare in the Twentieth Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Strachan</td>
<td>European Armies and the Conduct of War</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. Connaughton</td>
<td>The Nature of Future Conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>G. Vidal</td>
<td>Dreaming War</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. Singer (ed)</td>
<td>A Companion to Ethics</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. P. Sterba (ed)</td>
<td>Morality in Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. P. Sterba</td>
<td>Ethics: The Big Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Magas</td>
<td>The Destruction Of Yugoslavia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. D. Weitz</td>
<td>A Century of Genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. L. Hinton (ed)</td>
<td>Genocide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Martin</td>
<td>Understanding Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. K. Feldman</td>
<td>Cutting the Fuse: The Global Explosion of Suicide Terrorism and How to Stop it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Talbot</td>
<td>The Age of Terror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. F. Hoge &amp; G. Rose</td>
<td>How Did it Happen?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Halliday</td>
<td>Two Hours that Shook the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Mylroie</td>
<td>The War Against America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Bergen</td>
<td>The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict Between America and Al Qaida</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Burke</td>
<td>Al Qaeda: Casting a Shadow of Terror</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Burke</td>
<td>The 9/11 wars</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Gray</td>
<td>Al Qaeda and What it Means to be Modern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. K. Frey (ed)</td>
<td>Violence, Terrorism and Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K. Smits</td>
<td>Should Civil Liberties be Restricted in Responding to the Threat of Terrorism? (Ch 9 of Smits op cit.).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Wilkinson</td>
<td>Terrorism and the Liberal State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Held</td>
<td>How Terrorism is Wrong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Stepanova</td>
<td>Terrorism in Asymmetrical Conflict.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. P. Schmid</td>
<td>Western Responses to Terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Bjorgo</td>
<td>Terror from the Extreme Right</td>
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<tr>
<td>N. Chomsky</td>
<td>Power and Terror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Harmon</td>
<td>Terrorism Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Hoffman</td>
<td>Inside Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Carter</td>
<td>Our Endangered Values: America’s Moral Crisis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Fukyama</td>
<td>After the Neo-Cons: America at the Crossroads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Gray</td>
<td>Black Mass: Apocalyptic Religion and the Death of Utopia</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**H. Lafollette (ed)**

**Ethics in Practice 3rd edition contains the following excellent articles:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Boyle</td>
<td>Just War Doctrine and the Response to Military Terrorism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Lackey</td>
<td>Nipping Evil in the Bud: The Questionable Ethics of Preventive Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles R. Beitz</td>
<td>The Justifiability of Humanitarian Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William J. Hawk</td>
<td>Pacifism: Reclaiming the Moral Presumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Kavanagh &amp; J Oberdiek (eds)</td>
<td>Arguing about Law. Section VII Rights, Terrorism and...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Torture contains the following articles:

J. Waldron  
Security and Liberty: The Image of Balance

J. Shue  
Torture in Dreamland: Disposing of the Ticking Time Bomb

J. Mcmahan  
Torture, Morality and the Law

Northern Ireland

P. Dixon  
Northern Ireland (2nd edition October 2008)

C. Gormley-Heenan  
Power Sharing in Northern Ireland (In Heffernan, ed Developments in British Politics 9).

J.McGarry & B.O’Leary  
Explaining Northern Ireland

P.Bew  
Northern Ireland 1921-1994

P.Barton  
A Pocket History of Ulster

T.W.Moody  
The Course of Irish History

R.J.Lawrence  
The Government of Northern Ireland

N.Mansergh  
The Government of Northern Ireland

S.Wichert  
Northern Ireland since 1945

T.Wilson  
Ulster: Conflict and Consent

D.G.Boyce  
The Irish Question and British Politics

S.Bruce  
The Edge of the Union

D.Birrell  
Policy and Government in Northern Ireland

T.Pat-Coogan  
The Troubles

M.Dillon  
The Enemy Within

M.Dillon  
The Shankill Butchers

M.Dillon  
The Dirty War

K.Boyle  
Northern Ireland: The Choice

S.Dunn  
Facets of the Conflict in Northern Ireland

M.Farrell (ed)  
Twenty Years On

P.Foot  
Ireland: Why Britain Must Go

S.Gillespie  
N. Ireland and its Neighbours Since 1920

B.Hadfield (ed)  
Northern Ireland

D.Keogh  
Northern Ireland

G.Adams  
Before the Dawn: An Autobiography

M. O’Neill  
Devolution and British Politics (chapters 6,7)

I. Budge et al  
The New British Politics (3rd edition, chapter10)

A. Wilson,(ed)  
Irish America and the Ulster Conflict

B.Jones  
Politics UK (Chapter 30)

B Coxall & L. Robins  
Contemporary British Politics (pp 291-7)

P.Dunleavy (ed)  
Developments in British Politics, No 6 (chapter 7)

J.Fisher (ed)  
Central Debates in British Politics (chapter 4).

Fascism and the Extreme Right Today

D. Trilling  
Bloody Nasty People: The Rise of Britain’s Far Right.

B. Klandermans  
Extreme Right Parties in Europe

H. Nedelcu  
Radical Right Parties in Eastern Europe.

C. Mudde  
The Radical Right in Central and Eastern Europe
R. O. Paxton
The Anatomy of Fascism

R. J. Evans
Fascism: A Very Short Introduction

B. White
Issues in World Politics (chapter 8)

J. Kellas
The Politics of Nationalism and Ethnicity

E. Kedourie
Nationalism

E. Gellner
Nations and Nationalism

S. Hood
Fascism for Beginners

A. E. Ansell
New Right, New Fascism

R. Griffin
The Nature of Fascism.

R. Griffin
A Fascist Century (August 2008)

N. Copsey
Contemporary British Fascism (May 2008)

P. Ignazi
Extreme Right parties in Western Europe

N. Golshan (ed)
Fascism’s Return

T. Jones
The Dark Heart of Italy

T. Jones
Utopian Dreams

K. von Beyme
Right Wing Extremism in Contemporary Europe

G. Harris
The Dark Side of Europe

P. Hainsworth (ed)
The Extreme Right in Europe and America

M. Schmidt
The New Reich: Penetrating the Secrets of Today’s Neo-Nazi Networks

Evans Foundation
Europe’s New Racism

N. Goodrick-Clarke
Black Sun: Aryan Cults, Esoteric Nazism and the Politics of Identity

G. Frazer
Zhirinovksy: The Little Black Book

T. Bjorgo
Racist Violence in Europe

T. Bjorgo
Terror from the Extreme Right

G. Ford
Fascist Europe

P. Merkl
Encounters With the New Radical Right

P. Merkl
The Revival of Right Wing Extremism in the 1990’s

J. Marcus
The National Front and French Politics

C. Fisher
The Rise of the Nazis

P. Morgan
Italian Fascism

J. Solomos
Race and Racism in Contemporary Britain

S. Sagger
Race and Politics in Britain

H. Goulbourne
Race relations in Britain Since 1945

B. Coxall and
Contemporary British Politics (pp 65-8)

I. W. Hannaford
Race: The History of an Idea in the West

K. Malik
The Meaning of Race

T. Grundy
Memoir of a Fascist Childhood

R. Pearce
Fascism and Nazism.

A. J. Grand
Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany

H. G. Betz &
The New Politics of the Right

S. Immerfall
The Politics of the Extreme Right

P. Hainsworth
Women and Fascism

P. Brooker
Non-Democratic Regimes

H. G. Betz et al
The New Politics of the Right

M. Hughey
The New Tribalisms: The Resurgence of Race
**Immigration and Multiculturalism in Britain.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B. Parekh</td>
<td>A New Politics of Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. Naussbaum</td>
<td>The New Religious Intolerance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Schuster</td>
<td>The Use and Abuse of Political Asylum in Britain and Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Cohen and G. Wellman (eds)</td>
<td>Applied Ethics (Two essays on Immigration by Miller and Kukathis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. Legrain</td>
<td>Immigrants: Your Country Needs You</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Moorhead</td>
<td>Human Cargo</td>
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<tr>
<td>M. J. Gibney</td>
<td>The Ethics and Politics of Asylum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Cohen</td>
<td>No One is Illegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>T. Hayter</td>
<td>Open Borders</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Harding</td>
<td>The Uninvited: Refugees at the Rich Man’s Gate</td>
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<tr>
<td>S. Castles &amp; M. Miller</td>
<td>The Age of Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. White (ed)</td>
<td>Issues in World Politics (chapter 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Joly</td>
<td>Haven or Hell: Asylum Policies and Refugees in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Barry &amp; R. Goodwin</td>
<td>Free Movement: Ethical Issues in Trans-National Migration</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Seabrook</td>
<td>The Refuge and the Fortress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Dummett</td>
<td>Subjects, Citizens, Aliens and Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Kushner</td>
<td>Refugees in an Age of Genocide</td>
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<tr>
<td>L. Schuster &amp; L. Schuster and J. Solomos</td>
<td>Asylum, Refuge and Public Policy: Current Trends and Future Dilemmas in the UK (offprint)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Bloch and L. Schuster</td>
<td>Asylum and Welfare: Contemporary Debates (offprint)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>The State of the World’s Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>H. Lafollette (ed)</td>
<td>Ethics in Practice (pp 571-633)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I Budge et al</td>
<td>The New British Politics (4th edition, chapter 26)</td>
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**Precise References on Muslim Britain**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J. Gest</td>
<td>Apart: Alienated and Engaged Muslims in the West.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Abbas</td>
<td>Muslim Britain: Communities Under Pressure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Abbas</td>
<td>Islamic Political Radicalism: A European Perspective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Ansari</td>
<td>The Infidel Within: Muslims in Britain since 1800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Dench, K. Gavron &amp; M. Young</td>
<td>The New East End</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Held and H. Moore</td>
<td>Cultural Politics in a Globalised World</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. Esposito</td>
<td>The Future of Islam</td>
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**Secrecy and Security in Britain**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. Andrew</td>
<td>Defend the Realm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Todd &amp; G. Bloch</td>
<td>Global Intelligence: The World’s Secret Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Hennessy</td>
<td>The Secret State (2nd ed 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. Wright</td>
<td>Spy Catcher</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
M. Hollingsworth  Defending the Realm
A. Rogers  Secrecy and Power in the British State
A. Cavendish  Inside Intelligence
J. Adam  The New Spies
P. Sands  Lawless World: America and the Making and Breaking of Global Rules
P. Sands  Lawless World: America and the Making and Breaking of Global Rules.

Environmentalism and Ecologism.

H. Lafollette(ed)  Ethics in Practice (Chapters 60 to 63).
I. D. Jamieson  Environment (In McKinnon op cit)
J. N. Carter  Climate Change (in Beeson and Bisley op cit).
J. Benson  Environments, Ethics and Human Concern.
A. Dessler  The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change
K. Dow  The Atlas of Climate Change
L. Elliot  The Global Politics of the Environment
R. Garner  Environmental Politics.
A. Giddens  The Politics of Climate Change
A. Gore  An Inconvenient Truth
R. Henson  A Rough Guide to Climate Change
M. Hulme  Why we Disagree about Climate Change
G. Schmidt  Climate Change
P. Singer  Environment (Chapter 10, Practical Ethics)
D. Slingsby  Practical Ecology.
D. Worster  Nature’s Economy.
J. Griffiths  Wild: An Elemental Journey.

The Politics of Ethical Controversies.

H. Lafollette (ed)  Ethics in Practice (Excellent collection of articles)
M. Cohen  101 Ethical Dilemmas
J. Evans  Moral Philosophy and Contemporary Problems
J. Glover  Causing Death and Saving Lives
J. Glover  Choosing Children
A. Cohen and C. Wellman (eds)  Applied Ethics
M. Warnock  An Intelligent Person’s Guide to Ethics
P. Sterba  Morality in Practice
P. Sterba  Ethics: The Big Questions
N. White  A Brief History of Happiness
M. Timmons  Conduct and Character
J.E. Gracia (ed)  Classics of Western Philosophy
R. L. Arrington  Western Ethics: A Historical Introduction
G. Graham  
A. MacIntyre  
P. Kitcher  
B. Rollin  
P. Singer &  
H. Kuhse  
P. Singer  
P. Singer  
P. Singer (ed)  
P. Singer (ed)  
J. Nuttall  
R. Billington  
E. Bond  
J. L. Mackie  
B. Williams  
R. Trigg  
B. Appleyard  
M. Ridley  
D. Koehn  
K. Smits  
J. Buxton  

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**Eight Theories of Ethics**

**A Short History of Ethics**

**Lives to Come: The Genetic Revolution and Human Possibilities**

**The Frankenstein Syndrome**

**Embryo Experimentation**

**The Life You Can Save (2009)**

**Unsanctifying Human Life**

**Practical Ethics**

**A Companion to Ethics (excellent section on religion and ethics)**

**Applied Ethics**

**Moral Questions**

**Living Philosophy**

**Ethics and Human Well Being**

**Ethics**

**Morality**

**Morality Matters**

**Brave New Worlds: Genetics and the Human Experience**

** Genome: The Autobiography of a Species**

**Rethinking Feminist Ethics**

**Applying Political Theory ( Chs.5 to 8).**

**The Political Economy of Narcotics.**

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**Ethics and the Crisis of Capitalism**

J.K. Galbraith  
L. Elliot & D. Atkinson  
A. Offer  
A. Glyn  
R. Freeman  
J. Cassidy  
A. R. Sorkin  
G. Tett  
C. Hay  

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**The Great Crash**

**The Gods that Failed: How Blind Faith in Markets has Cost us Our Future**

**The Challenge of Affluence**

**Capitalism Unleashed**

**America Works**

**How Markets Fail: The Logic of Economic Calamities.**

**Too Big to Fail: Inside the Battle to Save Wall Street.**

**Fool’s Gold: How Unrestrained Greed Corrupted a Dream, Shattered Global Markets and Unleashed Catastrophe.**

**Britain and the Global Financial Crisis: The Return of Boom and Bust (In Heffernan, Developments in British Politics 9, N**

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Good luck, TJS. February 2013