

Philosophy 232.00: Justice and Politics
Winter 2007, Carleton College
Laird 211 -- MW 01:50PM-03:00PM
F 02:20PM-03:20PM

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What is justice? What constitutes legitimate authority and how can it be justified? Under what circumstances do we incur obligations to fellow-citizens and our states? Are some states so unjust that we are not obliged to comply with their laws? We will examine answers to these and related questions proposed by liberal, socialist, libertarian, communitarian, feminist and post-modern theories of political and social justice. We will also consider global justice from the perspective of cosmopolitanism and its critics.

Course requirements:

1. One two-page assignment (10%)
2. One four-page essay (20%)
3. One final assignment (you can choose among the following three options):
 - a. One eight-page essay on a topic given by me (30%)
 - b. A class presentation on the research topic of your choice (10%) and a paper based on your research (eight pages) (20%)
 - c. An eight-page paper based on your **diary** (20%) and at least ten diary entries (10%)
4. Attendance and participation in class discussions (20%)
5. Notes and comments on readings (Jan. 8, 10, 12) (10%)
6. One quiz on basic terms and ideas in the readings (10%)

*The first assignment (short paper) will be given out on January 8 and will be due on January 18 by 5 pm in your hand-in folder in COURSES.

* The topics for the four-page essay will be handed out on January 29. This assignment is due by 5 pm on February 13 in your personal hand-in folder in COURSES.

*Your final paper is due by the end of the day on the last day of exams, March 14. The topics for the final assignment (option 3a) will be handed out on February 26. You will have to notify me about which option you prefer for the final assignment by January 19.

*You will have to submit your notes and comments for January 8, 10 and 12 by the beginning of each class. The notes should include (1) a summary of one argument or position from the readings and (2) three comments/questions for discussion. You can make your submission either in electronic or paper form (handwritten entries are accepted but discouraged).

*The quiz (20 minutes) will be given in class on February 16. There will be three questions concerning basic ideas and concepts in the readings that will require short answers.

* Your attendance is half of your "attendance and participation" grade and your contribution to the class (your contribution to discussion, group work and other classroom activities) is the other. I give each student a mark after every class. You are going to be evaluated on your 20 best classes. If you find it difficult to participate in the discussion part of the class, please come and talk to me to arrange for an alternative version of your participation grade.

*You can choose to keep a diary in which you will state a problem related to the course that you want to explore and provide one argument supporting your tentative position on the issue (by January 19). You will keep the diary throughout the course reflecting your thinking about the problem and developing your argument. I will read your diary entries throughout the term to offer suggestions. Your set of diary entries (at least 10) is worth 10% of your final grade. The final paper

will be your defense of the final version of the argument in the diary (20%).

Disability Accommodations:

Please talk with me immediately if you require accommodations for any disability. We will make whatever arrangements are necessary.

We will be using several books available at the bookstore, as well as several readings available on reserve at the library. Please note that the reading schedule is tentative and will be adjusted according to the class interests and needs. Although the authors and the works we will read are as they appear below on the reading list, the page numbers are subject to change and some small readings may be added on some later dates. I will notify you about changes, but it is your responsibility to check every week for updates in COURSES, where the syllabus will be posted, to assure that you have all necessary information about readings assigned for the week..

James P. Sterba, *Justice: Alternative Political Perspectives*. Third Edition. Wadsworth, 1999.

John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*; Edited by Erin Kelly. Harvard University Press, 2001.

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. Basic Books, 1974.

A. John Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*, Princeton University Press: 1979

Iris Marion Young, *Intersecting Voices: Dilemmas of Gender, Political Philosophy, and Policy*. Princeton University Press, 1997.

Schedule of readings (tentative):

Libertarianism

January 5

John Hospers, "The Libertarian Manifesto", pp. 24-34 in *Justice: Alternative Political Perspectives* (hereafter referred to as "Sterba").

Nozick, Ch.1 and Ch. 2 (pp. 3-25)

January 8

Your notes and comments on the readings are due by the beginning of the class

Nozick, Ch. 3

The first assignment is handed out (due by 5 PM on January 18 in your hand-in folder in COURSES)

January 10

Your notes and comments on the readings are due by the beginning of the class

Nozick, Chapter 4: pp. 54-56 ("Independents and the Dominant Protective Agency")

pp. 58-59 ("Why Ever Prohibit?"), pp.63-71 ("Dividing the Benefits of Exchange", "Fear and Prohibition"), pp. 73-78 ("Risk");

Chapter 5: pp. 90-95 ("The Principle of Fairness"), pp. 101-108 ("How may the dominant Agency Act?"), pp. 113-119 ("The State")

January 12

Your notes and comments on the readings are due by the beginning of the class

Sterba, "From Liberty to Welfare" in *Sterba*.

Machan, "The Nonexistence of Basic Welfare Rights" in *Sterba*

Socialism

January 15

Marx and Engels, "The Socialist Ideal" in *Sterba*

Nell and O'Neill, "Justice Under Socialism", in *Sterba*

January 17

Nozick, ch. 7, pp. 149-174 (required), 174-182 (optional)

ch. 8 pp. 232-239 (required), 239-262 (optional)

Also, if and only if you are REALLY pressed for time, you can just read *Nozick* in *Sterba* (pp. 99-101) to understand what Cohen is talking about.

Gerald Cohen "Reevaluating Liberty of Contract and Self-Ownership", pp.677-692 in George Sher and Baruch A. Brody (eds.) *Social and Political Philosophy: Contemporary Readings* Harcourt Brace & Company, 1999

Your first assignment is due by 5 PM on Thursday, January 18 in you personal folder in COURSES

Liberalism

January 19

Kant, "The Contractual Basis for a Just Society" in *Sterba*

Rawls, Part I: "Fundamental Ideas".

January 22

Rawls, pp. 39-44 (12.1-13.2), 80-94 (23.1-26.5), 119-126 (34.1-37.3).

ADD HABERMAS ON THE OTHER AND HIS DEBATE WITH RAWLS

January 24

Dworkin, "Hypothetical Contracts and Rights", in *Sterba*

January 26

Rawls, pp. 135-157.

Raz, "Justice and Truth", in *Sterba*

January 29

Simmons, Ch. 5 "The Principle of Fair Play"

The second assignment is handed out. It is due by 5 PM on Tuesday, February 13 in you personal folder in COURSES

January 31

Mill, "On the Connection between Justice and Utility" in *Sterba*

February 2

Benhabib, "Toward a Deliberative Model of Democratic Legitimacy", in *Sterba*

Winter break: February 5

February 7

Young, chapters 2 and 3.

Communitarian theories

February 9

Aristotle, "The Nature of Justice", in *Sterba*

February 12

Sandel, "The Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism", in *Sterba*.

Hampton, "The Liberals Strike Back", in *Sterba*

Feminism

February 14

Okin, "Justice and Gender" in *Sterba*.

Sterba "Feminist Justice and the Family" in *Sterba*

The second assignment is due by 5 PM on Wednesday, February 14 in MOODLE

February 16

Sommers, "Philosophers against the Family" in *Sterba*

Friedman, "Sommers and the Family", in *Sterba*

Postmodernism

February 19

Quiz

Lyotard, "The Postmodern Condition", in *Sterba*.

Reiman, "Postmodern Argumentation and Post-postmodern Liberalism", in *Sterba*.

February 21

Fraser and Nicholson, "An encounter between Feminism and Postmodernism", in *Sterba*

February 23

Young, Ch. 5

Cosmopolitanism and the limits of global justice

February 26

Point-counterpoint 1: Lichtenberg v. Singer

Peter Singer, "Outsiders: our obligations to those beyond our borders";

Judith Lichtenberg, "Absence and the unfond heart: why people are less giving than they might be."

Both papers are from *The Ethics of Assistance: Morality and the Distant Needy*. Edited by Deen K.

Chatterjee, Cambridge University Press (2004)

February 28

Point-counterpoint 2: Risse v. Pogge

Thomas W. Pogge, "Assisting" the global poor," *The Ethics of Assistance*.

Mathias Risse, "How Does the Global Order Harm the Poor?" *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol. 33, no. 4, pp. 349-376, Fall 2005.

Final paper topics are distributed. Your final paper is due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, March 14 (the last day of exams).

March 2

Point-counterpoint 3: Miller v. Barry

Brian Barry, "International society from a cosmopolitan perspective."

David Miller, "The limits of cosmopolitan justice."

Both papers are from *International Society: Diverse Ethical Perspectives*. Edited by Davis R. Mapel and Terry Nardin, Princeton University Press (1998)

March 5

Walzer—Just and Unjust Wars (excerpts)

March 7

Erin Kelly, "The burdens of collective liability," *Ethics and Foreign Intervention*, Edited by Deen K. Chatterjee and Don E. Scheid, Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Kok-Chor Tan, "Military Intervention as a Moral Duty," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, vol. 9, no. 1, pp. 29-46, January 1995.

March 9

Summary and final discussion

Your final paper is due by 11:59 PM on Wednesday, March 14 (the last day of exams).