

Political Science 572
Political Theories of Justice
Professor Hayward

(Time and place of class)
Office hours: (Time) and by appt.
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What is social justice? How might we order our shared institutions and practices justly? This course invites students to consider and to revise their answers to these questions, by introducing them to debates about the contested meaning of this key political concept, "justice." It focuses, in particular, on debates about justice among political theorists and philosophers. Over the course of the quarter, we will compare ancient and modern conceptions of justice. We will ask what a just distribution of social goods (and bads) would look like. We will ask what role, if any, notions of "recognition" should play in understandings of justice. More generally, we will explore and engage in debates about what justice requires, whether and to what extent our own society is a just one, and how best to foster social justice in the contemporary world.

Course Requirements*

1. Participation—not just quantity, but also quality, counts for 10 percent of your grade. Excellent participation requires regular class attendance, good preparation (i.e., readings completed before class), and active and informed involvement in class discussions.
2. You will write three short (about 5 pp.) papers on an assigned topic or, alternatively, on a topic of your choosing with TA approval. These are due in your TA's mailbox, 2140 Derby Hall, Friday, (DATE); Friday, (DATE); and Friday, (Date). Together, these papers count for 60 percent of your grade (20 percent each). Please see the attached paper rubric describing the A, B, C, D, and E paper. (Committee: Please see attached sample questions.)
3. You will write an essay-style examination during finals week. This exam counts for 30 percent of your grade.

** All of the work that you do in this course must be your own. Plagiarism (using some else's words or ideas without citing them) and other forms of cheating will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.*

Course Materials*

1. Most of the readings for this class are available in a course reader, on sale at Cop-EZ, Tuttle, and on closed reserve at the Main Library.
2. The following books are on sale at the Ohio State Book store, SBX, and Long's, and on 24-hour reserve at the Main Library:

(List all course texts; one option is to use the reader *What is justice? Classic and Contemporary Readings*, ed. Robert Solomon and Mark Murphy, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000, in place of photocopied excerpts, depending on the relative cost.)

* *Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, 292-2880.*

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

Class 1 In-class reading: excerpts from Jonathan Kozol, *Savage Inequalities*.

(In the opening class, we will ask whether the story Kozol tells is a story about (in)justice, and why? We will ask what justice would mean in the context of American public education, as a means to articulating some conceptions of justice. An overview of the course will follow, which will begin to place competing understandings of justice in the context of the historical and contemporary theories the class will study.)

I. *Foundations: What is Justice?*

Class 2 Plato, *The Republic*, Book I

Class 3 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book V

Class 4 *Treatise of Human Nature* III, Part 2, 1-2;

Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals III, I and App. 3

Class 5 Mill, *Utilitarianism*, ch. 5

Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*, chs. 1-4

Class 6 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chapter 5

Marx, *Capital*, excerpts

Class 7 Marx, *Capital*, excerpts

Marx, "Critique of the Gotha Program"

Short paper #1 is due in your TA's mailbox by 4:30 p.m., Friday. (insert date of the Friday after class 7).

II. Justice and Distribution

Class 8 John Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, pp. 3-22; 40-45; and 60-83

Class 9 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, pp. 90-95; 100-108; 118-122; and 136-161.

Class 10 Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. 3-35 and 42-87

Class 11 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. 88-119 and 149-182.

Class 12 Michael Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, chapters 1 and 2

Class 13 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, chapters 4 and 9

Class 14 Susan Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family*, Introduction and chapter 4

Class 15 Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family*, chapters 5 and 6

Short paper #2 is due in your TA's mailbox by 4:30 p.m., Friday. (insert date of the Friday after class 15).

III. Justice and Recognition

Class 16 Iris Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chapters 1 and 2

Class 17 Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chapters 4 and 8

Class 18 Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition"

Class 19 Ayelet Shachar, "On Citizenship and Multicultural Vulnerability"

Elizabeth Kiss, "Democracy and the Politics of Recognition"

Class 20 Nancy Fraser, "From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Post-Socialist' Age"

Short paper #3 is due in your TA's mailbox by 4:30 p.m., Friday, (insert date of the Friday after class 20).

Final Essay Examination: (Insert date, time, and place)

25-w description:

Focuses on debates among political theorists about the meaning of justice. This course asks, "What is justice?" and "How might we order our world justly?"

Rationale:

We see this as a companion course to PLSC 571, "Political Theories of Democracy." Justice, like democracy, is a key concept in political theory and in political science generally. Our students should have the opportunity to study important philosophical work on justice.