

Recent and Contemporary Political Theory
Political Science 471
Tuesdays and Thursday, 3:30pm-4:45pm, 452 Hamilton
Fall 2012

This course will focus on recent philosophical arguments about justice, both domestic and global, though we will focus more on the former. The questions we will address include the following: what is the meaning of equality and of individual rights? What, if anything, do we owe our fellow citizens? What is the relationship between economic productivity and justice?

Instructor:

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Office hours: Mondays, 2pm to 5pm

Requirements

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings and should bring the assigned reading to class with them. Class will be mostly run through discussion, though I will occasionally lecture. There will be one quiz, two exams and one paper assignment. The quiz is worth 5%, the first exam is worth 15% of the grade; the final exam is worth 25%; the papers are worth 45% of the grade (broken down into several parts); participation is worth the remaining 10%.

**Laptop and
Electronics Policy**

Laptops and all electronic devices (iPods, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed to be used during class. They should all be put away during class time.

There are several parts to the paper assignment. You will have to write two short summary papers (about one page), describing the arguments in two articles. You will then submit a partial (at least four pages) of a draft of your paper, and then a final version of seven to eight pages. I will provide more information about the paper assignment in October.

E-Mail Policy

I sign on to email during the week, but only occasionally on the weekend. Do not expect me to reply to your email immediately, though I will respond within 24 hours during the week, and often quicker than that. I use email for questions that can be answered briefly; I do not use email to get into extended discussions. If you need to discuss a paper, an exam, or a course reading (or something else), please come see me during my office hours or make an appointment to see me. Email is an excellent way to make an appointment with me.

Readings

Rawls, *Justice as Fairness* (Harvard)
Schmidtz, *Elements of Justice* (Cambridge)
Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton)
Kymlicka and Donaldson, *Zoopolis* (Oxford)

All articles are available through the Sakai class portal. Sakai can be reached at <https://sakai.unc.edu/portal>. For help on Sakai, you can go to <http://blog.sakai.unc.edu/students/>.

I may make small changes to the syllabus as the semester progresses, particularly the last few weeks.

August

- 21 Introduction
- 23 Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, pp. 1-24
- 28 Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, Part II
- 30 Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, pp. 80-94, 111-126, 130-134

September

- 4 Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, pp. 135-142, 148-168, 179
- 6 Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, Part V
- 11 Nozick, "Distributive Justice," pp. 45-78
- 13 Nozick, "Distributive Justice," pp. 79-94, 107-110, 123-126; Quiz
- 18 No class
- 20 Arneson, "Equality and Equal Opportunity for Welfare"; Roemer, "A Pragmatic Theory of Responsibility for the Egalitarian Planner" (skip section IV)
- 25 Hayek, F.A. "The Use of Knowledge in Society"; Anderson, "How Should Egalitarians Cope With Market Risks," pp. 239-261
- 27 Anderson, "How Should Egalitarians Cope With Market Risks," pp. 261-270.

October

- 2 Schmitz, *Elements of Justice*, Parts 1 and 2
- 4 Schmitz, *Elements of Justice*, Part 3
- 9 Schmitz, *Elements of Justice*, Part 4
- 11 Schmitz, *Elements of Justice*, Part 5
- 16 Midterm Exam
- 18 Fall Break
- 23 Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chapters 1-2
- 25 Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chapter 4
- 30 First article summary due; bring Schmitz book to class and read articles on Sakai

November

- 1 Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chapter 5
- 6 Second article summary due
- 8 Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chapter 6
- 13 Kymlicka, *Zoopolis*, chapters 2-3
- 15 Kymlicka, *Zoopolis*, chapters 4-5
- 20 Paper draft due
- 22 Thanksgiving
- 27 Kymlicka, *Zoopolis*, chapter 6
- 29 Kymlicka, *Zoopolis*, chapter 7

December

- 4 Final Paper due