

Political Science
Contemporary Theories of Justice
Spring, 2007

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Office hours: Mondays, 3-4:30

This course centers around the idea of justice. The main tradition in political theory discusses justice in terms of distribution: who should get what (and who pays) in a domestic setting. Recently, however, arguments about extending justice globally have arisen, and attention has been paid to non-distributive aspects of justice. This course will examine contemporary theories of justice, their critics, global justice, and historical injustice.

Requirements:

This course will be run through discussion, so you need to do the reading carefully before class. You should bring the week's readings to class. I expect all students to participate intelligently and respectfully in class. Participation counts for 20% of the grade. You will write three 5 page short papers (30%), and one longer research 15-25 page paper on the topic of your choice (50%).

Short papers should not summarize the texts, but should critically or sympathetically analyze an important argument in the readings. Reaction papers are due before class. You will find three schedules for the reaction papers at the end of the syllabus. You choose the schedule you prefer, though you must stick to it. You should email me your preferred schedule by Jan 18th.

You should buy the following books:

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, revised edition (Harvard University Press: 0674000781)
John Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (Columbia U Press: 0231130899)
Robert Nozick, *Anarchy State and Utopia* (Perseus Books: 0465051006)
Martha Nussbaum, *Women and Human Development* (Cambridge U Press: 0521003857)
Jeremy Waldron, *Law and Disagreement* (Oxford U Press: 0199243034)
Avishai Margalit, *The Decent Society* (Harvard U Press: 0674194373)
Simon Caney, *Justice beyond Borders: A Global Political Theory* (Oxford UP: 0199297967)
W. James Booth, *Communities of Memory: On Witness, Identity, And Justice* (Cornell UP: 0801444365)
Jurgen Habermas, *The Inclusion of the Other* (MIT: 0262581868)

We will read selections from the following books. They are all worth having, but if you find your budget tight, you may copy the relevant sections. I have copies that you can borrow. I prefer you borrow all the readings at once.

Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family* (Basic Books)
Miller, *Principles of Social Justice* (Harvard U Press)
Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice* (Cambridge U Press)

There are two readings from Hayek that you should borrow from me to copy. One is ch. 9 from *Law, Legislation and Liberty*; the other is chapters one and nine from the *Constitution of Liberty*.

There are also several journal articles that I will email you in the beginning of the semester; they are all available on-line through the library.

Readings:

Jan 16: Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, sections 1-5, 9, 11-17, 20, 22-5, 29, 33-35, 39; Miller, *Principles of Social Justice*, chs. 2, 4.

Jan. 23: Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, sections 41- 44, 63-72, 75-6, 79, 85-6; Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family*, ch. 5; Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*, ch. 1

Jan. 30: Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, lectures I, II, and IV

Feb 6: Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, lectures V and VI; Cohen, "Where the Action is: On the Site of Distributive Justice," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, vol 26, no. 1 (Winter 1997): 3-30.

Feb. 13: Nozick, *Anarchy State and Utopia*, chs. 1-3, 7, pp. 232-8; Hayek, "Liberty," "Coercion," "Social Justice;" Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family*, ch. 4

Feb 20: Waldron, *Law and Disagreement*

Feb 27: Margalit, *The Decent Society*

March 6: Nussbaum, *Women and Human Development*

March 13: Caney, *Justice beyond Borders: A Global Political Theory*

March 20: Spring Break

March 27: Miller, "Against Global Egalitarianism," *The Journal of Ethics*, vol 9, nos. 1-2 (March 2005), pp. 55-79; Miller, "Holding Nations Responsible," *Ethics*, volume 114 (2004), pages 240-268; Walzer, "The Moral Standing of States," vol. 9, no. 3 (1980); *Philosophy and Public Affairs*; Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* vol. 33, no. 2 (Fall 2005), pp. 113-147.

April 3: No class; individual meetings about your paper

April 10: Booth, *Communities of Memory: On Witness, Identity, And Justice*

April 17: Habermas, *The Inclusion of the Other*, chs. 4-5 & 9-10

April 24: Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?" *Ethics*, volume 109, page 287-337

