

PHIL2020: Theories of Social Justice

Course Description:

This course will examine four distinct approaches to thinking about social justice: utilitarianism, libertarianism, classical liberalism, and liberal egalitarianism. These approaches present competing visions of how our societies and their political institutions should be arranged. We will examine what thinkers who argue for each approach have had to say about these matters and, in doing so, issues such as the proper limits of the state's ability to place restrictions on our behavior, whether and how social and economic inequality should be regulated, what kinds of things can and cannot be owned, and how political decisions should be made. To draw out the contrasts between these approaches, we will focus on how these theories interpret the political values of liberty and equality, the state's role in promoting each of these values, and what should be done in cases where these values compete with one another. We will not only seek to understand how these traditions in political thought bear on past or hypothetical societies, but will also use them to think about existing political institutions, including our own. In doing so, we will consider a number of contemporary political problems, including the legal enforcement of morality, the regulation of markets, responsibilities for addressing historical injustice, accommodation for people with disabilities, and fairness in educational opportunities.

Course Meetings:

Lectures: Law Link T, Tuesday 1-3pm

Tutorials: Coombs Seminar Room B

Instructor:

Matthew Lindauer
matthew.lindauer@anu.edu.au
Coombs 2210
Wednesday 3-5pm and by appt.

Tutor:

Chad Lee-Stronach
u5313667@anu.edu.au
Coombs 2231
Friday 1-2pm and by appt.

Course Requirements:

Participation: 10%
First Paper: 20%
Second Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

Course Papers:

Topics will be distributed in advance of the paper due dates. I will be available in office hours to discuss outlines and even early stage ideas (so don't hesitate to come and meet with me). Please submit papers double-spaced with normal font on Wattle.

Course Readings:

All readings will be distributed electronically using Wattle.

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation:

- 1) Attendance: To get the most out of the class, you should do your best to attend each lecture and tutorial.
- 2) Preparation and Participation: You are expected to do the required reading for each lecture and to participate in tutorial discussions. I will also ask that each student submit a brief reading response at least 24 hours in advance of the next lecture on Wattle. These reading responses will not be graded (beyond whether or not they were submitted, which is included under your participation grade), but will be used to get a sense of what parts of the readings were most exciting or confusing and where discussion should tend towards in the coming class. They can take the form of just two or three questions, and I don't want students to be concerned about putting a lot of time or effort into these. Since you'll be doing the readings anyway, it shouldn't be much extra work to jot down a few thoughts or questions that came to you in the course of reading.

Academic Integrity:

I expect all students to abide by the standards of academic integrity. For the ANU's website containing information about these requirements, see <http://www.anu.edu.au/students/program-administration/assessments-exams/academic-honesty-plagiarism>. One of the most severe violations of academic integrity is plagiarism. If you directly quote, closely paraphrase, or use some original idea from another author, you must cite the source of this material. This includes material drawn lectures, journal articles, books, and also internet sources, such as websites. Do make use of the university requirements or get in touch if you have questions about these requirements. All violations of academic integrity or honesty will be taken seriously and resolved in line with the University's policies.

Course Meeting Schedule:

July 19, Introduction

July 26, Utilitarianism

Jeremy Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Chapters 1 and 4
John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapter 2;
On Liberty, Introduction and Chapter 3 excerpts

August 2, Utilitarianism and Sexual Morality

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter 3
Jeremy Bentham, "Offences Against One's Self" excerpts
Excerpts from: *Bowers v. Hardwick*, *Lawrence v. Texas*, *Obergefell v. Hodges*

August 9, Libertarianism

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. xi-xiv, 3-6, 10-17, 22-35, 48-56, 101-119

August 16, Libertarianism and Labor Regulation

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, pp. 149-164, 167-182, 232-238

August 23, Historical Injustice

Jeremy Waldron, "Superseding Historical Injustice"

August 30, Classical Liberalism

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*, Chapter 11

Friedrich von Hayek, *The Constitution of Liberty*, Chapter 10

September 4, First Paper Due

Teaching Break, September 2-16

September 20, Classical Liberalism: Freedom and Markets

Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*, Introduction, Chapters 1, 2, 10, 12, Conclusion

September 27, Egalitarian Liberalism

John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, Sections 1-8, 13-14, 17-21

October 4, Egalitarian Liberalism (Cont.)

John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, Sections 23-25, 27-28, 41-42, 45-46, 49-50

Martha Nussbaum, "Capabilities as Fundamental Entitlements"

October 4, Equality, Luck, Responsibility

Elizabeth Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?"

Richard Arneson, "Luck Egalitarianism, Interpreted and Defended"

October 11, Education

Debra Satz, "Equality, Adequacy, and Education for Citizenship"

Harry Brighouse and Adam Swift, "Educational Equality vs. Educational Adequacy"

October 18, The Personal and the Political

Susan Okin, "Justice, Gender, and the Family"

G.A. Cohen, *If You're an Egalitarian, How Come You're So Rich?*, pp. 117-142

October 25, Concluding Session

October 28, Second Paper Due

November 8-10, Take-Home Exam