Theories of Social Justice

Political Science 331
Professor: Frank Lovett

Spring 2010
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Office Hours: Seigle 282
Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 am

This course overviews the leading contemporary conceptions of justice, including utilitarian, liberal, libertarian, communitarian, and deliberative-democratic theories, and their implications for the design of political, economic, and social institutions. In addition, this course will examine special topics such as justice between generations, global justice, and the rights of resistance or disobedience.

Course Requirements

1. **Readings.** The required readings listed below average about 75 – 100 pages per week. These are often dense and difficult works, requiring careful attention. Additional optional readings are listed at the end of the syllabus, which might be helpful in studying for exams and in writing the term paper.

2. **Exams.** There will be three short exams, the first on February 24th, the second on March 31st, and the third on a date TBA. Each exam is worth 20% of your overall grade. Makeup exams will not be offered, barring demonstrable emergencies.

3. **Term Paper, 7–10 pages.** Paper topics will be provided later in the semester, but with permission you may write on any topic you choose. The term paper will count for 40% of your overall grade.

Course Materials

For this course you will need the following books, all of which should be available at the Campus Bookstore:

- Bentham and Mill, *The Classical Utilitarians* (Hackett)
- Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)
- Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Basic Books)
- Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* (Basic Books)

Additional readings are available online at ARES (the course password is ‘Justice10’).
Schedule of Required Readings and Assignments

January 20  Introduction (no assignment)

I. UTILITARIANISM

January 25  Bentham, “Principles of Morals and Legislation,” chs. 1–2, 4, 14; and “The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number”
Beccaria, Of Crimes and Punishments, selections (online)

January 27  Bentham, “Push-Pin versus Poetry”
Mill, “Utilitarianism,” chs. 1–2; and “Remarks on Bentham’s Philosophy”


February 3  Mill, “Utilitarianism,” chs. 3–5

II. JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS

February 8  Locke, Second Treatise of Government, ch. 8
Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals, selections (online)
Rawls, Theory of Justice, preface, p. vii–ix

February 10  Rawls, Theory of Justice, §§ 1–9

February 15  Rawls, Theory of Justice, §§ 11–13, 15–17, 68

February 17  Rawls, Theory of Justice, §§ 20–26, 33, 29

February 22  Rawls, Theory of Justice, §§ 31, 34–37, 14, 43, 40

February 24  First Exam

III. LIBERTARIANISM

March 1  Locke, Second Treatise of Government, chs. 2, 5, 9

101–119, 149–153

March 8, 10  No class (spring break)

IV. COMMUNITARIANISM

March 17  Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 3–51

March 22  Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 64–91, 201–226


March 31  **Second Exam**

V. DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

April 5  Cohen, “Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy” (in Bohman and Rehg)
Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy” (online)

April 7  Cohen, “Procedure and Substance in Deliberative Democracy” (in Bohman and Rehg)
Habermas, “On the Internal Relation between the Rule of Law and Democracy” (online)

April 12  Knight and Johnson, “What Sort of Equality Does Deliberative Democracy Require?” (in Bohman and Rehg)

VI. EXTENDING JUSTICE

April 14  Intergenerational Justice 1 – Resource Consumption:
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 44
Barry, “Justice Between Generations” (online)
de-Shalit, *Why Posterity Matters*, selections (online)

April 19  Intergenerational Justice 2 – Population:
Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*, selections (online)
Narveson, “Moral Problems of Population” (online)

April 21  Global Justice 1 – War and Intervention:
Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, selections (online)
Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*, selections (online)
April 26  Global Justice 2 – International Distribution:
            Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (online)
            Nagel, “The Problem of Global Justice” (online)

April 28  The Duty of Justice and Resistance:
            Locke, Second Treatise of Government, chs. 18–19
            Rawls, Theory of Justice, §§ 18–19, 55–59

May 3  Concluding Lecture – The Future of Social Justice

May 7  Term Paper Due (at 12:00 noon)

TBA  Third Exam

Additional Optional Readings

There exists extensive literatures on all the topics covered in this class, and this bibliography is hardly comprehensive. I have selected works here mainly for their usefulness in explaining the arguments we have discussed in class.

UTILITARIANISM:
            Mill, Representative Government, and The Subjection of Women
            Sidgwick, The Methods of Ethics, bk. 4
            Goodin, Utilitarianism as a Public Philosophy
            Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, ch. 2
            Griffin, Well-Being: Its Meaning, Measurement, and Moral Importance
            Brandt, A Theory of the Right and the Good

JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS:
            Rawls, Justice as Fairness: A Restatement
            Barry, Justice as Impartiality, chs. 1, 3–4, and 7
            Pogge, Realizing Rawls, parts 1–2
            Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, ch. 3
            Kukathas and Pettit, Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics, chs. 1–4
            Daniels, ed., Reading Rawls: Critical Studies on Rawls’s ‘A Theory of Justice’

LIBERTARIANISM:
            Narveson, The Libertarian Idea
            Steiner, An Essay on Rights
            Kymlicka, Contemporary Political Philosophy, ch. 4
            Kukathas and Pettit, Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics, ch. 5
            Cohen, Self-ownership, Freedom, and Equality, chs. 1–4
COMMUNITARIANISM:
- Walzer, *Thick and Thin*
- Miller, *Principles of Social Justice*
- Taylor, *Philosophical Papers, vol. II*, chs. 7 and 11
- Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 6
- Mulhall and Swift, *Liberals and Communitarians*

DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY:
- Christiano, *Rule of the Many*
- Bohman and Rehg, eds. *Deliberative Democracy*, essays 2, 8, and 10
- Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*
- Dryzek, *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond*

EXTENDING SOCIAL JUSTICE:
- de-Shalit, *Why Posterity Matters*, chs. 1–5
- Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*
- Pogge, *Realizing Rawls*, part 3
- Singer, *One World*
- Walzer, *Obligations: Essays on Disobedience, War, and Citizenship*