

Theories of Social Justice

Political Science 331

Professor: Frank Lovett

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Monday/Wednesday

(314) 935-5829

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Office Hours: Seigle 282

Seigle L006

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)
Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Belknap-Harvard University Press)
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Basic Books)
Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* (Basic Books)
Bohman and Rehg, eds., *Deliberative Democracy* (MIT Press)

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 1 Mill, “On Liberty,” chs. 1, 3, 5

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, 44, 43, 40

February 24 **First Exam**

III. LIBERTARIANISM

March 1 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 2, 5, 9
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. ix–xiv, 3–15, 174–182

March 3 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 15–17, 22–35, 51–56, 88–90
101–119, 149–153

March 8, 10 No class (spring break)

March 15 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 153–164, 183, 189–204, 213–231, 333–334

IV. COMMUNITARIANISM

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

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

March 24 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 95–112, 119–123, 129–154, 160–164

March 29 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 52–63, 281–321

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, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , chs. 18–19 Rawls, <i>Theory of Justice</i> , §§ 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

Kukathas and Pettit, *Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics*, 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*