

Theories of Social Justice

Political Science 331/5331

Professor: Frank Lovett
Assistant instructor: Dominique Lockett

Fall 2018
Monday/Wednesday
Time: 2:30–4:00 pm
Classroom: Simon 018

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Office Hours: Wednesdays
9:30–11:30 am
Seigle 282

This course overviews the leading contemporary conceptions of social justice, including utilitarian, liberal-egalitarian, 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

Both undergraduates and graduate students may take this course, and the requirements are different for each. The undergraduate requirements are as follows:

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 the exams or in writing the term paper.
2. **Exams.** There will be three (3) short exams, the first on October 3rd, the second on November 5th, and the third on December 17th. Each exam is worth 20% of your overall grade. Makeup exams will not be offered, barring demonstrable emergencies.
3. **Case Studies.** Students are required to write three (3) two-page case studies. Case studies apply one of the five theories we study to real-world issues discussed in short articles provided on the Canvas website for the course. The case studies will together count for 10% of your overall grade.
4. **Term Paper, 5–7 pages.** Paper topics will be provided in the middle of the semester, but with permission you may write on any topic you choose related to the issues discussed in class. The term paper is worth 30% of your overall grade. Late papers will be marked down two (2) points per day until turned in; extensions will be considered only if requested at least three (3) days in advance of the due date.

Graduate students enrolled in the parallel course Political Science 5331 are expected to attend all the lectures and do all of the scheduled readings. The “additional optional read-

ings” listed at the end of the syllabus are also recommended. Enrolled graduate students will also meet once per week in my office (date and time TBA) to discuss the readings in depth. Graduate students must write either two shorter papers of at least 10 pages each, or one seminar paper of 20 or more pages in length.

Grading and Expectations

Exams are non-cumulative, each covering roughly one third of the course. They will have two parts: a set of identifications, followed by a short essay. The purpose of the exams is to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings and associated lectures, and will be graded on that basis. There will be a grading curve. Post-curve numerical grades assigned to the exams correspond to letter grades as follows:

97–100	A+	74–76	C
94–96	A	70–83	C-
90–93	A-	67–69	D+
87–89	B+	64–66	D
84–86	B	60–63	D-
80–83	B-		
77–79	C+	59 and below	F

In contrast to the exams, the purpose of the cases studies and term paper is to provide students an opportunity to develop and express their own ideas or arguments about social justice. Both will be graded on how interesting, clear, and persuasive they are. Although the term paper should demonstrate facility with the conceptual tools learned in class, it should not merely recapitulate the readings or lectures: term papers that do the latter will generally receive lower marks. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor or assistant instructor during office hours or by appointment to discuss their term papers.

Note on Academic Integrity: Ethical behavior is an essential component of learning and scholarship. Students are expected to understand and adhere to Washington University’s academic integrity policy (wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity). Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Academic Integrity Policy Committee. Penalties for violating the policy will be determined by the committee, and can include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, suspension or expulsion from the University. If you have any doubts about what constitutes a violation of the Academic Integrity policy, or any other issue related to academic integrity, please ask your instructors.

Inclusive Learning Environment Statement

The best learning environment is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. Washington University is dedicated to fostering an inclusive atmosphere, in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others. Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a climate of intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal

- September 10 Mill, "On Liberty," chs. 1, 3
Sidgwick, "Socialistic Interference" (online)
- September 12 Bentham, "Principles of Moral and Legislation," ch. 2
Mill, "Utilitarianism," chs. 3–5
- September 16 **Case Study 1** (submit online before 12:00 midnight)

II. LIBERAL EGALITARIANISM

- September 17 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 8
Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, selections (online)
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, preface, p. vii–ix
- September 19 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 1–9
- September 24 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 11–13, 15–17, 68
- September 26 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 20–26, 33, 29
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 235–238
- October 1 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 31, 34–37, 43, 40
- October 3 **First Exam**
- October 7 **Case Study 2** (submit online before 12:00 midnight)

III. LIBERTARIANISM

- October 8 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 2, 5, 9
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. ix–xiv, 3–15, 174–182
- October 10 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 15–17, 22–35, 51–59, 65–73,
88–90, 101–119
- October 15 no class (fall break)
- October 17 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 149–164, 183, 198–204,
213–231, 333–334
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 48
- October 21 **Case Study 3** (submit online before 12:00 midnight)

IV. COMMUNITARIANISM

- October 22 Sandel, "Morality and the Liberal Ideal" (online)
Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. xi–xvi, 3–30
- October 24 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 31–51, 64–91, 201–206
- October 29 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 95–112, 119–123, 129–154, 160–164,
206–211
- October 31 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 52–63, 281–321
- November 4 **Case Study 4** (submit online before 12:00 midnight)
- November 5 **Second Exam**

V. DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

- November 7 Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy" (in Bohman and
Rehg)
Habermas, "Three Normative Models of Democracy" (online)
- November 12 Cohen, "Procedure and Substance in Deliberative Democracy" (in
Bohman and Rehg)
Habermas, "On the Internal Relation between the Rule of Law
and Democracy" (online)
- November 14 Knight and Johnson, "What Sort of Equality Does Deliberative
Democracy Require?" (in Bohman and Rehg)
- November 18 **Case Study 5** (submit online before 12:00 midnight)

VI. EXTENDING JUSTICE

- November 19 Intergenerational Justice 1 – Resource Consumption:
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 44
Barry, "Justice Between Generations" (online)
de-Shalit, *Why Posterity Matters*, selections (online)
- November 21 no class (Thanksgiving)
- November 26 Intergenerational Justice 2 – Population:
Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*, selections (online)
Narveson, "Moral Problems of Population" (online)

- November 28 The Duty of Justice 1 – Scope:
 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 19
 Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (online)
 Nagel, “The Problem of Global Justice” (online)
- December 3 The Duty of Justice 2 – Grounds and Limits:
 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 55–57, 59
 Walzer, “The Obligation to Disobey” (online)
 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 18–19
- December 5 Concluding Lecture – The Future of Social Justice
- December 10 **Term Paper Due** (submit paper copy before 12:00 noon)
- December 17 **Third Exam** (3:30 – 5:30 pm)

Additional Optional Readings

An extensive literature exists on all the topics covered in 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*
 Sen and Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, chs. 1, 11
 Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 2
 Griffin, *Well-Being: Its Meaning, Measurement, and Moral Importance*
 Brandt, *A Theory of the Right and the Good*
 Brink, *Mill’s Progressive Principles*

LIBERAL EGALITARIANISM:

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
 Sen and Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, chs. 5, 8
 Lovett, *Rawls’s A Theory of Justice: A Reader’s Guide*
 Shiffrin, “Race, Labor, and the Fair Equality of Opportunity Principle”

LIBERTARIANISM:

- Narveson, *The Libertarian Idea*
Steiner, *An Essay on Rights*
Tomasi, *Free Market Fairness*
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
Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*
Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 6
Kukathas and Pettit, *Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics*, ch. 6
Sen and Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, 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*
Elster, ed. *Deliberative Democracy*
Knight & Johnson, *The Priority of Democracy*
Estlund, *Democratic Authority*

EXTENDING JUSTICE:

- de-Shalit, *Why Posterity Matters*, chs. 1–5
Thompson, *Intergenerational Justice*
Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*
Pogge, *Realizing Rawls*, part 3
Singer, *One World*
Miller, *National Responsibility and Global Justice*
King, “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”
Walzer, *Obligations: Essays on Disobedience, War, and Citizenship*
Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously*, ch. 8