

Course Outline

COURSE:	LAWS 4101: Contemporary Justice Theory
TERM:	Fall 2013
PREREQUISITES:	Fourth-year Honours standing
CLASS:	Day & Time: Mondays 6:00pm to 9:00pm Room: Please check with Carleton Central for current room location
INSTRUCTOR: (CONTRACT)	Philip Alexander Steiner
CONTACT:	Office: B442 LA (Loeb Building) Office Hrs: By appointment Email: Philip.Steiner@carleton.ca

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Course Description

This course offers students an opportunity to critically survey the field of contemporary justice theory. Contemporary justice theorists are interested in imagining what the principles, procedures and practices of a just society and its institutions might or ought to be, and students are invited to explore, consider, and critically engage with these ideas. Seminar participants will be expected to read a range of challenging materials, and to engage with those materials each week, both conversationally and through various written assignments. Ultimately, this course invites students to:

- i) Survey some of the foundations of contemporary justice theory as it is conventionally constituted;
- ii) critically explore various core concepts (like *society, justice, equality, liberty, and democracy*) within contemporary justice theory considering their role in grounding the issues and questions each theorist addresses; and
- iii) consider these materials in terms of the multitude of issues and challenges facing contemporary societies in their practical attempt (or pretense) of organizing/operating a 'just society.'

Required Texts

This course is organized around of a combination of primary (direct readings of theorists) and secondary (explanatory readings about theorists) readings. Though there is a great deal of advantage to spending time on primary readings, given the time constraints and scope of material, a secondary text has been selected in order to broadly contextualize the examples

Students will need to acquire the follow text:

Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991].

While this text can potentially be borrowed from the library or shared, given the reading load, students are strongly advised to acquire their own copies. Texts are available at the Carleton University book store.

The required text will be used heavily to frame discussions and help contextualize readings; in addition students will be assigned a significant number of articles and book excerpts. For these materials, students will be provided with the full bibliographic citation of each assigned reading, and will be expected to retrieve the readings each week via the Carleton University Library facilities and online resources, students should budget both time and financial resources to acquire and copy (in accordance with all applicable copyright legislation) weekly articles and book chapters.

Evaluation

(All components must be completed in order to get a passing grade)

Informed Participation	20
Reading Reflection I	15
Reading Reflection II	15
Take Home Exam	50

Informed Participation [20%]

Students will be expected to attend weekly seminars, and be prepared to contribute to, and on occasion lead, discussions on the assigned readings and themes. Attendance, on its own, will not contribute to this requirement. Students must be prepared to critically engage with the materials, ideas, and themes assigned each week. As part of preparing for each week's seminar, students will be required to:

1. Review (reputable and intellectually rigorous) news sources and select one or more articles related to either the explicit theme of the week, or social justice more broadly (this is not meant as an onerous requirement, all that is needed is to review the news source, and be ready to briefly discuss some of the issues – notes, presentations, or other materials are not required); and
2. produce 2-4 discussion questions based on the assigned materials each week (discussions questions must be typed, printed, and submitted in the class for which they were written in order to count towards participation grades).

Reading Reflections [30%]

Students are required to submit two reading reflections between September 16th and November 25th. Each reading reflection should be between 3 and 5 pages (printed, double spaced, 12pts, Times New Roman), and critically consider all the assigned materials for a given week. Reading reflections should not simply summarize the material or present personal opinions, but instead explore and consider the key ideas presented in the readings. Students may offer their own perspective on the materials, but such perspectives must be rationally presented and justified in relation to course materials.

Reading reflections may only be submitted at the start of the seminar during with that material will be considered. The purpose of this exercise is to encourage independent engagement with the assigned materials - reading reflections will not be accepted after the seminar in which the materials in question are discussed.

Final Examination (Take Home) [50%]

Students will be given a take home exam in the final seminar of the term (November 25th). The exam will include 4 essay questions, of which students will need to respond to 3. Each answer will be 4-6 pages, with the total maximum allowable pages capped at 18 for the entire exam.

The exam questions will invite students to compare and contrast the various readings assigned throughout the course, and require students to critically consider many of the core themes and issues discussed in class. Students will formulate answers based entirely on class notes and assigned materials.

Students will have up to two weeks to complete the exam, with a final submission deadline of Monday December 9th at 6pm. Late exams must be submitted via the departmental drop box, and will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day (including weekends). Exams will be considered submitted based on the date stamp received by the department, meaning that exams submitted after the department closes will be considered submitted the following business day. Students are strongly encouraged to take the exam deadline seriously, and plan accordingly.

Academic Honesty, Citation, and Plagiarism

All the work in the course is based on the assigned readings, and in class discussions. Students must employ full and proper citation standards to all assignments. No outside resources are required or permitted. Improper citation, failure to provide citations, or use of outside material presented as one's own will result in a grade of zero on any given assignment. In addition, any instances of perceived academic dishonesty will be prosecuted to the fullest extent possible under University regulations.

That said, students will be provided with all the tools and support necessary to master proper citation. Students do not need to worry about their current familiarity with citation rules – these will be reviewed in the seminars.

Reading and Work Load

This course is a reading intensive course. Students will be required to keep up with all readings, and be prepared to participate in and occasionally lead weekly seminar discussions. Given the nature of the materials being covered, students are strongly advised against delay in covering assigned readings – catching up several weeks of readings at the end of the course will not be feasible.

That said, this course does not require a background in contemporary justice theory or theory more broadly – provided students keep up with the assigned readings. Given the importance of staying up to date with weekly material, it is strongly advised that students acquire the assigned materials at least several weeks ahead of time, or ideally retrieve all the materials at the start of the term.

Etiquette and Respect in Seminar Discussions

Weekly seminar discussions will take up the assigned readings as well as the broader themes around justice/injustice raised by the various authors. Students are not required to agree/disagree with any particular position explored; however they are expected to engage with all assigned materials in a meaningful way. Students are also expected to conduct all seminar and related discussions with decorum and according to the principles of mutual respect for the dignity, worth and rights of their fellow students as outlined in the [Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#).

Seminar Schedule and Assigned Readings

Weekly seminar topics have been divided according to some of the dominant categories generally used to discuss different perspectives in contemporary Justice Theory. This means that weekly topics often focus on relatively narrow ideas (one week explicitly on *class, poverty* and *Marxism*, another on *gender equality*, and another on *multiculturalism*). Others, despite their importance cannot be explicitly taken up in the allotted time.

That said, these topics also cut across and define debates across such categories. The importance and relevance of questions of inequality on the basis of gender or gender presentation, race, sexual orientation, religion, citizenship, or economic status are important themes that must be kept in mind throughout the course. Students are therefore encouraged to always consider the broader issues of social justice throughout the course, and not only on weeks where they may be explicitly addressed by the selected authors.

Week 1 – September 9th

Introduction

Week 2 – September 16th

Foundations: Two Dimensions of Utilitarian Thinking

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Utilitarianism** (pages 10-48)
2. Bentham Jeremy. “Principles of Morals and Legislation” in Sandel, Micheal J. (editor) *Justice: A Reader*. Oxford University Press, New York, New York - 2007. (chapter 2: p 9 – 14)
3. Mill, John Stuart. “Utilitarianism” in Sandel, Micheal J. (editor) *Justice: A Reader*. Oxford University Press, New York, New York - 2007. (chapter 2: p 16-27, 35-47)

Week 3 – September 23rd

Contemporary Liberalism I: Political Liberalism

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Liberal Equality** (pages 53-96)
2. Rawls, John. *Political Liberalism* [revised edition]. Columbia University Press, New York – 1993 [1996], (pages xv-lxii, 133-168)

Week 4 – September 30thContemporary Liberalism II: Deliberative Democracy and Inclusive Justice

1. Habermas, Jürgen. “Reconciliation Through the Public Use of Reason: Remarks on John Rawls’s Political Liberalism” in *Journal of Philosophy* (92) 2 - 1995. (pages 109-111, 126-131)
2. Habermas, Jürgen. *The Inclusion of the Other: Studies in Political Theory*. The MIT Press, Cambridge - 1999 (pages 239-252)
3. Habermas, Jürgen. *Between Facts and Norms: Contributions to a Discourse Theory of Law and Democracy*. The MIT Press, Cambridge – 1998 (pages 295-314)

Week 5 – October 7thJustice and Community

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Communitarianism** parts 1-6 (pages 208-228)
2. Gutman, Amy. “Communitarian Critique of Liberalism” in Avineri, Shlomo & Avner de-Shalit (eds). *Communitarianism and Individualism*. Oxford University Press, Oxford – 1992. (pages 120-136)

Week 6 – October 14thStatutory Holiday – No Class**Week 7 – October 21st**Justice without Government

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Libertarianism** (pages 102 - 158)
2. Nozick, Robert. *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. Basic Books Inc. New York – 1968 (pages ix-xiv, 26-35, 149-153, 183, 198-204)

Week 8 – October 28thFall Term Break – No Class

Week 9 – November 4thSocial(ist) Justice and the Legacy of Marx

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Marxism** (pages 166-195)
2. Walzer, Michael. *Spheres of Justice: A Defense of Pluralism and Equality*. Basic Books Inc. New York, New York – 1983 (pages 3-10, 28-30, 61-63, 312-318)

Week 10 – November 11thJustice and Gender Equality

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Feminism** (pages 377-420)
2. Pateman, Carole. “Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private Dichotomy” in Anne Phillips (ed), *Feminism and Equality*. Oxford University Press, Oxford – 1983 (pages 103-126)
3. Okin, Susan Muller. “Gender Inequality and Cultural Differences” in *Political Theory*, 22(1) - 1994. (pages 5-24)

Week 11 – November 18thIndependent Review and Exam Preparation – No Class

It is strongly recommended that students use this week to review the readings up this point in preparation for the take home exam.

Week 12 – November 25thCitizenship and Global

1. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Citizenship Theory** intro, part 1, part 5 (pages 284-294, 312-315)
2. Young, Iris Marion. “Responsibility and Global Labor Justice” in *The Journal of Political Philosophy*. Vol 12(4) – 2004. (pages 365-388)

3. Pogge, Thomas. "The Priorities of Global Justice" in *Metaphilosophy*. 32(1/2) – 2001. (pages 6-24)

Week 13 – December 2nd

Multiculturalism, Difference and Reminders of Justice

4. Kymlicka, Will. *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* (second edition), Oxford University Press 2001 [1991], **Multiculturalism** (pages)
1. Connolly, William. "Suffering, Justice and the Politics of Becoming" in Campbell, David and Michael J. Shapiro (eds) *Moral Spaces: Rethinking Ethics and World Politics*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis – 1999. (pages 125-153)
2. Gould, Carol C. "Diversity and Democracy: Representing Differences" in Benhabib, Seyla (ed) *Democracy and Difference: Contesting The Boundaries of the Political*. Princeton University Press, Princeton – 1996 (pages 171-186)

Week 14 – November 9th

Conclusion/Review/Take Home Exam

TBD