

Philosophy 3320 – Contemporary Ethical Theory  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:05-5:25 (Room: Southam Hall 517)  
Prof. Robert Ware (OH: Thursdays, 3-4; 3A56 Paterson)

### OUTLINE

We will study two important ethical theories of the last forty years: John Rawls's theory of justice as fairness and G. A. Cohen's attempt to rescue justice and equality "from Rawlsian liberal thought". We will focus on their texts, but other works will be consulted. Classes will be devoted to lectures, presentations, and discussion.

#### **Main Texts** (available at Bookstore):

John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*

G. A. Cohen, *Rescuing Justice and Equality*

Other readings are available on the ARES system and on reserve, including:

John Rawls, *Lectures on History of Political Philosophy*, Harvard, 2007

John Rawls, *Collected Papers*, Harvard, 1999

John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, Columbia, 1996

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Revised Edition, Harvard, 1999

Samuel Freeman, ed. *Cambridge Companion to Rawls*, 2003, electronic

Samuel Freeman, *Justice and the Social Contract*, Oxford, 2007

Thomas Pogge, *John Rawls: His Life and Theory of Justice*, Oxford Scholarship Online, 2007

Thomas Pogge, *Realizing Rawls*, Cornell, 1989

Week 1: 5 January                      Whose Justice: Rawls and Cohen

Week 2: 10 & 12 January      Rawls's Fundamental Ideas

*Justice as Fairness*, 1-38

Pres: Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, pp. 1-46

Week 3: 17 & 19 January      Rawls's Principles of Justice

*Justice as Fairness*, 39-79

Pres: Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, pp. 47-81

Rec: "Mill" in, *Lectures on History*, pp. 251-313

Week 4: 24 & 26 January      Rawls's Argument from the Original Position

*Justice as Fairness*, 80-134

Rec: Rawls, "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical"

Week 5: 31 Jan & 2 Feb          Rawls's Institutions of a Just Basic Structure

*Justice as Fairness*, 135-179

Pres: *Justice as Fairness*, 180-202 & *Political Liberalism*, 133-168

Week 6: 7 & 9 February          Cohen's Big Issues

*Rescuing Justice and Equality*, 1-48

**(Note 1 due 8 February, 4 pm; topic from *Justice as Fairness*)**

Week 7: 14 & 16 February Testing the Incentives Argument

*Rescuing Justice and Equality*, 48-86

Rec: "The Pareto Argument", 87-115

**(Reading Period; No class 21 & 23 February)**

Week 8: 28 Feb & 2 March The Basic Structure Objection

Week 9: 7 & 9 March The Difference Principle

Week 10: 14 & 16 March The Freedom Objection

Week 11: 21 & 23 March The Facts

**(Note 2 due 24 March, 4 pm; topic from *Rescuing Justice and Equality*)**

Week 12: 28 & 30 March Constructivism

Week 13: 4 & 6 April Whose Justice?

**(Final paper due 7 April, 4 pm)**

**COURSE WORK for 3320**

Presentation (about 20 minutes plus discussion) 20%

Report (about 20 minutes plus discussion) 20%

Note 1 (about 1200 words) 10%

**(Note 1 due 8 February, 4 pm; topic from *Justice as Fairness*)**

Note 2 (about 1200 words) 10%

**(Note 2 due 24 March, 4 pm; topic from *Rescuing Justice and Equality*)**

Final paper (about 4500 words) 40%

**(Final paper due 7 April, 4 pm)**

Final papers can be on a topic chosen by participant and approved.

Presentations and reports will be in class at appropriate times in our schedule.

Presentations are to be critical discussions of material for a seminar.

Reports can be on recommended reading or other approved material.

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2016-17)****Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

**Deferrals for Term Work:**

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations (both formally scheduled and take-homes), you must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of the exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

**Plagiarism:**

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

**Academic Accommodation:**

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 your professor 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 your professor 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send 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*). Requests made within two

weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor 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/>

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 7	Classes start.
Sept. 20	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 24-28	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	Last day of classes, Fall term. Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Dec. 9	Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – University closed.
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 7	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 10-25	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 14	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 25	Take-home exams are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/">http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735