**PHIL 3340 Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy: Justice**  
Fall 2024 Wednesdays 6:05-8:55 pm CB2104  
Professor Vida Panitch vida.panitch@carleton.ca  
Office: Paterson 3A55 Hours: Wednesdays 4-5 pm  
PHIL 3340 [0.5 credit]

\*This is an in-person class, *except for the first lecture* – see note in the schedule below

**Topics in Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy (calendar description)**A critical examination of some contemporary approaches to topics in social and political  
philosophy, such as liberalism, feminism, contractarianism, Marxism, libertarianism, and  
communitarianism. Precludes additional credit for PHIL 3300. Prerequisite(s): a course in philosophy or second-year standing. Lectures three hours a week.

**Course Overview:**  
What is a just society? How do we know if we live in one? How do we create one? In this class we will examine theories of justice and evaluate their suitability as guides to political and economic decision-making in a democratic state. We will look specifically at Utilitarian, Libertarian, Marxist, Kantian, Egalitarian, Communitarian, and Cosmopolitan theories of justice, pausing and testing each theory against such important matters of justice as commercial surrogacy, affirmative action, international development aid, and marriage equality.

**Course Text:**  
*Justice: A Reader*, ed. Michael J. Sandel (Oxford: 2007) available at the Carleton Bookstore.  
All additional readings are available on Brightspace, indicated by \*\* in the schedule.

**Course Evaluation**

Discussion Responses: 30%

Midterm Exam: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

1. **Weekly Group Discussion Responses: 10 x 3% each = 30%**

* The last hour of our weekly 3-hour time slot will be devoted to group discussion. At 8 pm each week, the lecture will end, and a discussion question will be assigned. Students will work in self-selected groups of 3 to answer the question in 2 pages double-spaced. Answers can be submitted by email up to 48 hrs after the end of each class (8:55 pm each Friday). Students who prefer to work outside of the allocated class hour are welcome to do so provided the work is received on time.

1. **Midterm Exam Online on October 30: 30%**

* Students must sign in to the zoom link provided to receive the exam and will have 2 hours to complete 4 questions. One question will be posted at the beginning of every 30-minute period of the exam. Students must complete the exam while remaining in the zoom classroom and submit their answers by email immediately upon conclusion of the exam.

1. **Take Home Exam due on December 21: 40%**

* The take home exam will be posted on December 1st, and the final class on December 3rd will not be a lecture but a virtual office hour that is entirely elective for students wishing to ask questions about the exam. The exam will be 10 pages total in length and due on the last day of the Fall exam period. The exam will be essay-based and pertain to material covered throughout the course, with additional emphasis on topics covered post midterm.

**Course Schedule:**

September 4 ***Justice and the State - An Introduction***

* **Note**: this introductory lecture will be online: <https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/91391652662>

September 11 ***Justice as Happiness: Utilitarianism***

* John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism (reader pp. 14-47)

September 18 ***Justice as Self-Ownership: Libertarianism***

* Milton and Rose Friedman, Free to Choose (reader pp. 49-60)
* Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia (reader pp. 60-73)
* John Locke, Second Treatise of Government (reader pp. 90-97)

September 25 ***Justice as Self-Ownership: Marxism***

* Karl Marx, Wage Labour and Capital \*\*
* Debra Satz, The Moral Limits of Markets: The Case of Human Kidneys \*\*

October 2 ***Justice as Autonomy: Kantianism***

* Immanuel Kant, Groundwork to a Metaphysics of Morals (reader pp.158-189)

October 9 ***Justice as Fairness: Egalitarianism***

* John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (reader pp. 203-226)

October 16 ***Justice as Membership: Communitarianism***

* Michael Sandel, Democracy’s Discontents (reader pp. 328-334)
* Michael Walzer, Spheres of Justice (reader pp. 335-342)

October 23 ***Reading Break***

October 30 ***Mid-term Exam Online:*** <https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/98663850280>

November 6 ***Justice as Neutrality and the Case of Marriage Equality***

* John Rawls, Political Liberalism (reader pp.343-358)
* Michael Sandel, Political Liberalism (reader pp.359-377)
* Goodridge v. Dept of Public Health (reader pp.379-383)
* Michael Kinsley, Abolish Marriage (reader pp.383-384)

November 13 ***Justice as Restitution and the Case of Affirmative Action***

* Ronald Dworkin, Bakke’s Case: Are Quotas Unfair (reader pp. 249-255)
* Charles Mills, Racial Liberalism \*\*
* Kwame Anthony Appiah, Group Rights and Racial Affirmative Action \*\*

November 20 ***Justice as Non-Exploitation and the Cases of Surrogacy and Prostitution***

* Elizabeth Anderson, Is Women’s Labor a Commodity? (reader pp. 144-156)
* Laurie Shrage, Should Feminists Oppose Prostitution? \*\*

November 27 ***Justice as Non-Membership and the Case of Global Aid***

* Thomas Pogge, Eradicating Systemic Poverty, \*\*
* Peter Singer, Famine, Affluence, and Morality, \*\*

December 4 ***Virtual Exam Discussion/Office Hours*** <https://carleton-ca.zoom.us/j/93359508606>

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2024-25)**

**Assignments:** Please follow your professor’s instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

**Evaluation:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Deferrals for Term Work:** If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

**Deferrals for Final Exams:** Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/examinations/#deferred-final-exams)). Visit the [Registrar’s Office](https://carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-conduct/#academic-integrity-policy))

**Academic Accommodation:** You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

* *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](https://carleton.ca/edc/teachingresources/administrative-pedagogy/academic-accommodations/) website.
* *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](https://carleton.ca/pmc/) 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 test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
* *Survivors of Sexual Violence*: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support/).
* *Accommodation for* [Student Activities](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)*:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 4 Classes start.

Sept. 17 Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.

Sept. 30 Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Oct. 14 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Oct. 21-25 Fall Break – no classes.

Nov. 22 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.

Dec. 6 Last day of fall term classes. ***Classes follow a Monday schedule***. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.

Dec. 9-21 Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Dec. 21 All take-home examinations are due.

Jan. 6 Classes begin.

Jan. 17 Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.

Jan. 31 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Feb. 17 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Feb. 17-21 Winter Break – no classes.

Mar. 15 Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.

Mar. 25 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.

Apr. 8 Last day of two-term 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 two-term and for winter term courses.

Apr. 9-10 No classes or examinations take place.

Apr. 11-26 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Apr. 18 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Apr. 26 All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy: [www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy) 520-2110

Registrar’s Office: [www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar) 520-3500

Academic Advising Centre: [www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising) 520-7850

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/> 520-3822

MacOdrum Library <http://www.library.carleton.ca/> 520-2735