

PHIL 3340 Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy: Justice and the State
Tues/Thurs 4:05-5:25
Professor Vida Panitch
vida_panitch@carleton.ca
Office: Paterson 3A55
Thurs 2:45-3:45 or by appt.

Course Overview:

How do we realize justice? Should public policy-makers and legislators be guided by different principles of justice than private citizens? Why? And what principles might these be? In this class we will examine three distinct conceptions of justice, and evaluate their appropriateness as guides to political and distributive decision making in a liberal democratic state. These three conceptions of justice are utility based, rights based, and virtue based, respectively. The first recommends public decision making and resource distribution in accordance with a principle of happiness maximization, the second in accordance with a principle of individual freedom, and the third in accordance with a principle of moral desert. Throughout the course we will look at how these principles get articulated in Utilitarian, Libertarian, Kantian, Egalitarian, Aristotelian, Communitarian and Cosmopolitan theories of justice, pausing as we go to test each principle in application to such issues as military conscription, commercial surrogacy, affirmative action, foreign aid, and marriage equality.

Course Text:

Justice: A Reader, ed. Michael J. Sandel (Oxford: 2007)
This text is available for purchase from the Carleton Bookstore

Course Assignments:

There will be a midterm exam held in class on October 16th, a term paper due on November 15th, and a final take-home exam posted on November 29th and due no later than 4 pm on December 19th. The midterm will be worth 30%, the paper will be worth 30%, and the take-home will be worth 40% of your final grade for the course.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (Sept 6):
Justice and the State
No Readings

Week 2 (Sept 11/13):
Justice as Maximized Happiness/ Utilitarianism
Jeremy Bentham, "Principles of Morals and Legislation" (pp.9-13)
John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" (pp.14-47)

Week 3 (Sept 18/20):

Justice as Self-Ownership/Libertarianism

Milton and Rose Friedman, "Free to Choose" (pp.49- 60)

Robert Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" (pp.60-73)

Week 4 (Sept 25/27):

Justice as Self-Ownership/John Locke

John Locke, "Second Treatise on Government" (pp.84-110)

Week 5 (Oct 2/4):

The Morality of Markets: Is Everything for Sale?

James McPherson, "Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era" (pp.131-136)

James Traub, "All Go Down Together" (pp.137-138)

In the Matter of Baby M (1987) and (1988) (pp.138-143)

Elizabeth Anderson, "Is Women's Labor a Commodity" (pp.144-156)

Week 6 (Oct 9/11):

Justice as Autonomy/Immanuel Kant

Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals" (pp.158-189)

Immanuel Kant, "On the Supposed Right to Lie" (pp.199-202)

Week 7 MIDTERM

Oct 16: Midterm Exam In-Class

Oct 18: No Class

Week 8 (Oct 23/25):

Justice as Fairness/ John Rawls

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

Week 9 (Oct 30/Nov 1):

Ability and Merit: Do we Deserve our Talents?

Robert Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" (pp.226-235)

Ronald Dworkin, "Equality of Resources," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10(4)

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/2265047> (pp. section. I-III)

Ronald Dworkin, "Bakke's Case: Are Quotas Unfair?" (pp.249-255)

Week 10 (Nov 8/10):

Justice as Virtue/ Aristotle

Aristotle, "The Politics" (pp. 264-294)

Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics" (pp.295-299)

Week 11 (Nov 13/15):

Justice as Membership/Communitarianism and Cosmopolitanism

Michael Sandel, "Democracy's Discontents" (pp. 328-334)

Michael Walzer "Sphere's of Justice" (pp. 335-342)

Thomas Pogge, "Responsibility for Poverty Related Ill Health," *Ethics and International Affairs* 16(2)

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/doi/10.1111/j.1747-7093.2002.tb00398.x/abstract>

Week 12 (Nov 20/22):

The State's Role on Questions of Value: Neutrality or Perfection?

John Rawls, "Political Liberalism" (pp.343-358)

Michael Sandel, "Political Liberalism" (pp.359-377)

Week 13 (Nov 27/29):

Marriage Equality: Political or Metaphysical?

Goodridge v. Dept of Public Health (pp.379-383)

Michael Kinsley, "Abolish Marriage" (pp.383-384)

Stephen Macedo, "Homosexuality and the Conservative Mind" (pp.392-403)

Robin West, "Universalism, Liberalism, and Gay Marriage" (p.403-410)

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2012-13)

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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- 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, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

Academic Accommodation 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).

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

Important Dates:

Sept. 6	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 19	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. 5	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 8	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 19	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 3	Last day of classes, Fall term. 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. 3	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 4-5	No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 6-19	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 19	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 7	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. 18	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 18-22	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 27	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 29	Good Friday – university closed
Apr. 10	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. NOTE: On this day all classes follow a Friday schedule.
Apr. 10	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 11-12	No classes take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 13-27	Final Examinations.
Apr. 27	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre www.carleton.ca/pmc 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library www.carleton.ca/wts 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735