

PHIL 3340 Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy: Justice

Fall 2019 Tuesday 6:05-8:55 pm SA 515

Professor Vida Panitch vida.panitch@carleton.ca

Office: Paterson 3A55 Hours: Mondays 5-6 pm

PHIL 3340 [0.5 credit]

Topics in Contemporary Social and Political Philosophy

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 justice and how do we realize it? How do we treat people fairly? Should legislators and public policy-makers be governed by different principles of fairness than private citizens in their interactions with others? And what principles might these be? In this class we will examine distinct principles of justice and evaluate their suitability as guides to political and distributive decision-making in a democratic state. We will look at how these principles are grounded in Utilitarian, Libertarian, Marxist, Kantian, Egalitarian, Communitarian, and Cosmopolitan theories of justice, pausing as we go to test each view on such applied topics as commercial surrogacy and kidney sales, affirmative action, international development, and marriage equality.

Course Text:

Justice: A Reader, ed. Michael J. Sandel (Oxford: 2007) available at the Carleton Bookstore. Further readings are available on CU Learn, indicated as ** in the schedule.

Class Organization:

6:05-7:20 Lecture

7:20-7:35 Break

7:35-8:20 Group Assignment

8:20-8:55 Class Discussion

Course Assignments:

1. Weekly Group Discussion Piece: 9 x 3% = 27%

- After the break students will work in groups of 3-4 answering assigned questions about the readings and preparing arguments to defend a particular textual interpretation or practical proposal. We will discuss each group's response in the last portion of class, and groups will turn in their written answers at the end of class.

2. Midterm Exam on October 15 = 28%

- The exam will be essay-based and pertain to materials covered up to this date. Students will have 2 hours to complete the exam in class.

3. Take Home Exam due on December 21 = 45%

- The take home exam will be assigned on the last day of class and due electronically on the last day of the Fall exam period. The exam will be essay-based and pertain primarily, although not exclusively, to material covered since the midterm exam.

Course Schedule:

Sept. 10: Justice and the State: An Introduction

Sept. 17: Justice as Happiness: Utilitarianism

- Jeremy Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation* (pp. 9-13)
- John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism* (pp. 14-47)

Sept. 24: Justice as Self-Ownership: Libertarianism

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

Oct. 1 Justice as Self-Ownership: Marxism and Immoral Markets

- Karl Marx, "Wage Labour and Capital" **
- Elizabeth Anderson, "Is Women's Labor a Commodity?" (pp. 144-156)
- Debra Satz, "The Moral Limits of Markets: the Case of Human Kidneys" **

Oct. 8: Justice as Autonomy: Deontology and Kantianism

- Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork to a Metaphysics of Morals* (pp.158-189)
- Immanuel Kant, "Theory and Practice, Part 2" **

Oct. 15: Midterm Exam In-Class

Oct. 22: Reading Break

Oct. 29: Justice as Fairness: Egalitarianism

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

Nov. 5: Justice as Membership: Communitarianism

- Michael Sandel, *Democracy's Discontents* (pp. 328-334)
- Michael Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* (pp. 335-342)
- Susan Moller Okin, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?" **

Nov 12: Justice as Political not Metaphysical: Neutrality vs Perfection

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

Nov 19: Justice as Restitution: Race and Affirmative Action

- Charles Mills, "Racial Liberalism" **
- Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Group Rights and Racial Affirmative Action" **
- Richard Bernstein, "Racial Discrimination or Righting Past Wrongs," (pp. 237-240)
- Ronald Dworkin, "Bakke's Case: Are Quotas Unfair," (pp. 249-255)

Nov 26. Justice as Non-Membership: Cosmopolitanism

- Thomas Pogge, "Eradicating Systemic Poverty: Brief for a Global Resources Dividend" **
- Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," **

Dec. 3: Exam Review and Discussion: Optional

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2019-20)

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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor's name.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
- 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.

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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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. <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

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/>

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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities: 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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. 24	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. 7	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter 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 two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735