

PHIL 5000: Justice, Equality, and The State

Tuesdays 2:35 pm – 5:25 pm
Professor Vida Panitch
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Office: Paterson 3A55
Hours: Tuesdays 12:30 pm -2:00 pm

Course Description:

Three debates about the nature of justice have dominated contemporary political philosophy for last half century:

1. Content: what are the principles of justice?
2. Legitimacy: wherefrom do such principles gain their authority?
3. Scope: to how broad a political community do these principles apply?

John Rawls can be credited with having launched each of these debates in his respective works *A Theory of Justice* (1971), *Political Liberalism* (1993), and *The Law of Peoples* (1999). In this course we will explore Rawls' views regarding the content, legitimacy and scope of justice, as well as the widespread and very much ongoing debates his answers to these questions have generated in the field of political philosophy

Course Readings:

All readings are available in the library's online journal catalogue or as PDFs on CU Learn, indicated in the course schedule below.

Course Evaluation:

Weekly Reading Responses: 7 responses x 4 marks each = 28%
Course Participation = 12%
Final Take Home Exam (Term Paper) = 60%

Reading responses should be 3 pages double-spaced. You must submit 7 of these throughout the term, in hard copy at the beginning of class, on weeks of your choosing. You may focus in on one claim, principle, or idea from the text, the general argument of one of the week's readings, or themes that connect the week's readings. These responses must be both expository and evaluative in nature, and as they account for almost half your term mark must be taken seriously and will be marked accordingly. Your final assignment will be a take home exam in the form of a term paper, which will be due on the last day of the December exam period. It will 15-20 pages in length, double-spaced. Topics will be chosen by students, and must be approved by the instructor no later than Dec 2nd.

Course Schedule:

Part 1: Content

...or the Difference Principle and the Equality of What Debate

September 9:

- Introduction to the course. No Reading.

September 16:

- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard, 1971) pp 3-19, 47-81, 102-135 (PDF on CU Learn)

September 23:

- Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia* (Basic Books, 1984) pp. 3-35, 149-164 (PDF on CU Learn)
- Ronald Dworkin, "**What is Equality? Part 1: Equality of Welfare**" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10.3(1981): 185-246**

September 30:

- Ronald Dworkin, "**What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources,**" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10.4 (1981): 283-345**
- Amartya Sen, **Equality of What?** *Tanner Lectures on Human Values* (1979) (PDF on CU Learn)

October 7:

- Richard Arneson, "**Equality and Equal Opportunity for Welfare,**" *Philosophical Studies* 56.1 (1989):77-93
- G.A. Cohen, "**On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice**" *Ethics* 99.4 (1989): 906-944

October 14:

- Philippe Van Parijs, "**Why Surfers Should be Fed: The Liberal Case for an Unconditional Basic Income**" *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 20.2 (1991): 101-131
- Elizabeth Anderson, "**What is the Point of Equality?**" *Ethics* 109.2 (1999): 287-337

Part 2: Legitimacy

... or Liberalism v Communitarianism and Political v Comprehensive Liberalism

October 21:

- Michael Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* (Basic Books, 1984) pp 3-26 (PDF on CU Learn)
- Charles Taylor "**Atomism**" *Philosophy and the Human Sciences, Philosophical Papers Vol 2* (Cambridge, 1985), pp 187-210 (PDF on CU Learn)

October 28: Reading Break

November 4:

- John Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (Columbia, 1993) pp 3-29, 47-54, 72-77, 178-190 (PDF on CU Learn)

November 11:

- Ronald Dworkin, "**Liberalism**" *A Matter of Principle* (Harvard 1986) pp 181-204 (PDF on CU Learn)
- Michael Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, 1998): pp 184-218 (PDF on CU Learn)

Part 3: Scope

...or Cosmopolitanism v Contractualism, or Global Justice and the Duty of Assistance

November 18:

- Thomas Pogge, "**An Egalitarian Law of Peoples**," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 23.3 (1994): 195-224
- Charles Beitz, "**Rawls's Law of Peoples**," *Ethics* 110.4 (2000): 669-696

November 25:

- Martha Nussbaum, "**Beyond the Social Contract: Toward Global Justice**" *Tanner Lectures on Human Values* (2003): read pp 415-418, 457-482** (PDF on CU Learn)
- Thomas Nagel, "**The Problem of Global Justice**," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 33.2 (2005): 113-147

December 2:

- John Rawls, "**The Idea of Public Reason Revisited**" *University of Chicago Law Review* 64.3 (1997): 765-807

NB: Minor changes may be made to this syllabus before the first class on Sept 9th

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2014-15)

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
- 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://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 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*). 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. 4	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 17	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. 13	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 27-31	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 10-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 5	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 16	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. 16-20	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 8	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. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 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
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735