Course Overview:

The question of what is required by justice has been one of the fundamental concerns of political theory since the time of Socrates and has spawned a number of different interpretations regarding exactly what constitutes justice: Is it need (as Marxists say, “to each according to needs”)? Is it merit (in Aristotle, for example, who one is and what one has done)? Is it equality (and, if so, in what sense is it true that “all are created equal”)? The many definitions of justice that have emerged have, in turn, generated an intimidating range of questions about what justice requires and permits, and offered a diversity of answers in terms of how we may best secure the conditions needed to achieve a just society. The debate surrounding the definitive character of justice has itself been further complicated by the fact that “[m]any different kinds of things are said to be just and unjust: not only laws, institutions, and social systems, but also particular actions of many kinds, including decisions, judgments, and imputations” (John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, 7). The disagreement concerning the “proper” or “correct” definition of justice has helped to ensure that the “question of justice” remains at the forefront of political theory.

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a number of the seminal accounts of justice, written by some of the most renowned and influential political theorists, including Plato, Aristotle, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Hobbes, David Hume, John Stuart Mill, Karl Marx, John Rawls, Robert Nozick, and Susan Moller Okin. Reviewing a range of interpretations that span the history of political theory will help to reveal the manner in which understandings of the nature and demands of justice have evolved to reflect the changing character of society.

Required Text:

Available in the Carleton University Bookstore


All other required material [noted with an asterisk*] will be on reserve in the Maxwell MacOdrum Library.
Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Essay (#1)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due February 6/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Essay (#2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due March 20/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>To be scheduled during formal exam period, Apr. 9 - 28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tutorial Participation:

Tutorials are an integral component of the course; they provide an opportunity for students to engage in discussions of the assigned readings, thereby allowing students to both exhibit their understanding of the course material and the specific topic under examination and to improve their oral communication skills. Students will be provided with a number of questions for discussion in each of the tutorial sessions.

Tutorial participation accounts for 10% of each student's final grade. Please note that the grade assigned is for participation, not attendance (it is, of course, impossible to participate if you do not attend). Students who due to illness or for personal reasons are unable to attend a tutorial session should discuss this matter with their tutorial leader at the earliest possible point in time.

Review Essays:

Students will be required to write and submit two (2) review essays, each approximately four typewritten, double-spaced pages in length. Essays that significantly fail to meet this length, as well as those that notably exceed it, will be penalized accordingly. Each essay must address one of the questions that have been assigned for discussion in tutorial (a list of questions will be distributed during the first week of classes). Further, the two essays must address different theorists. This exercise provides an opportunity for students to engage in analysis and discussions of the assigned readings, thereby allowing students to both demonstrate their understanding of the course material and the specific topic under examination and to improve their written communication skills. As with all written assignments, students should ensure that adequate attention is given to proper sentence structure, grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. Given the brevity of the essay, there should be no use of secondary sources.

Those who are unfamiliar with the expectations/requirements of academic essay writing at the postsecondary level are strongly encouraged to purchase a style manual. There are several excellent style manuals available to assist students with producing essays that satisfy the demands of proper academic writing. The following are two examples of such manuals: Kate L. Turabian, Student’s Guide for Writing College Papers, 3rd edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977), and William Strunk and E. B. White, The Elements of Style, 4th edition (Boston: Longman, 2000).

The Department’s Style Guide is available free at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Each student must submit a hard copy of his/her review essays to his/her tutorial leader. The first review essay is due in tutorial on Tuesday, February 6, 2007; the second review essay is due in tutorial on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. Essays submitted after that time will be assessed a late penalty (see below). Combined, the essays will account for 40% of each student’s final grade (20% for each of the two essays).
Late Penalties:

There will be a 10% per day late penalty assessed against any assignments submitted after the due date. Extensions with respect to due dates will be granted only in the case of extenuating, unavoidable circumstances that can be verified (e.g., note from a doctor, etc). This policy will be strictly enforced.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious offence against academic honesty, and, consequently, is completely unacceptable. Papers containing plagiarized passages or arguments/ideas will be severely penalized, potentially resulting in a grade of 0 and further academic repercussions. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the University’s regulations regarding plagiarism/academic misconduct, which can be found in the University’s academic calendar (see, for example, http://www.sprott.carleton.ca/academic_programs/plagiarism.pdf).

Students are expected to know how to avoid plagiarism and other forms of cheating. To that end, it is strongly recommended that student take advantage of the assistance available through the Academic Writing Centre and Writing Tutorial Service (see, for example, http://www.carleton.ca/wts/docs/index.htm). Should a student remain uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism/academic misconduct, s/he should seek clarification from the instructor.

Final Examination:

There will be a final examination written during the regularly scheduled exam period at the end of the term (April 9 – 28). The exam will be a combination of short answer and essay questions; it will account for 50% of each student’s final grade.

Important Dates:


January 19/2007: Last day for registration for winter-term courses; last day to change courses or sections for winter-term courses.


March 9/2007: Last day to withdraw from Fall/winter and winter-term courses.


April 3/2007: Last day of Fall/winter and winter-term classes.

April 5/2007: Winter term ends; last day for handing in term assignments.

April 9–28/2007: Regularly scheduled final exam period: The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar during the official examination period, April 9–28/2007. The specific date, time and location will be announced when they become available.
Lecture Schedule and Readings:

Unless noted otherwise [*], all of the below readings are present in the required course text. All other *required* material [noted with an asterisk*] will be on reserve in the Maxwell MacOdrum Library.

### January 9
Introduction to the Course

Distribution and review/discussion of syllabus; identification and explanation of expectations; dissemination of other useful information.

### ANCIENT CONCEPTIONS

**January 16**  
Plato  
Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 4

**January 23**  
Aristotle  
Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 5

### MEDIEVAL CONCEPTIONS

**January 30**  
Saint Thomas Aquinas  
Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 6

*NOTE: REVIEW ESSAY #1 IS DUE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6*

### MODERN CONCEPTIONS

**February 6**  
Thomas Hobbes  

On reserve in Maxwell MacOdrum Library

*NOTE: REVIEW ESSAY #1 IS DUE*

**February 13**  
David Hume  
Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 8

**February 20**  
**WINTER BREAK—NO CLASS**

**February 27**  
John Stuart Mill  
Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 10
Lecture Schedule and Readings:

March 6    Karl Marx
           Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 11

**CONTEMPORARY CONCEPTIONS**

March 13   John Rawls
           Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 3

†NOTE: REVIEW ESSAY #2 IS DUE ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20

March 20   Robert Nozick
           Reading: Westphal, *Justice*, chapter 2

†NOTE: REVIEW ESSAY #2 IS DUE

March 27   Susan Moller Okin
           *Reading: Milton Fisk, ed., *Justice* (Humanities Press, 1993), chapter 17
           On reserve in Maxwell MacOdrum Library

April 3    FINAL CLASS: REVIEW FOR EXAM

APRIL 9–28 FINAL EXAM (specific date, time and location will be provided when available)

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Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadlines for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: November 6, 2006 for fall and fall/winter term courses, and March 9th, 2007 for winter term courses.
For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work.

Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/styleguide.pdf

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
**Course Requirements:** Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure B No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Connect Email Accounts:** The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.