

## Theories of Social Justice

Political Science 331/5331

Professor: Frank Lovett  
Assistant: William O'Brochta

Fall 2017  
Monday/Wednesday  
Time: 2:30–4:00 pm  
Classroom: Seigle 301

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Office Hours: Mondays and  
Wednesdays, 11:00–noon  
Seigle 282

This course overviews the leading contemporary conceptions of social justice, including utilitarian, liberal, libertarian, communitarian, and deliberative-democratic theories, and their implications for the design of political, economic, and social institutions. In addition, this course will examine special topics such as justice between generations, global justice, and the rights of resistance or disobedience.

### Course Requirements

Both undergraduates and graduate students may take this course, and the requirements are different for each. The undergraduate requirements are as follows:

1. **Readings.** The required readings listed below average about 75–100 pages per week. These are often dense and difficult works, requiring careful attention. Additional optional readings are listed at the end of the syllabus, which might be helpful in studying for exams and in writing the term paper.
2. **Exams.** There will be three (3) short exams, the first on October 4th, the second on November 6th, and the third on December 18th. Each exam is worth 20% of your overall grade. Makeup exams will not be offered, barring demonstrable emergencies.
3. **Term Paper, 7–10 pages.** Paper topics will be provided in the middle of the semester, but with permission you may write on any topic you choose related to issues discussed in the class. The term paper is worth 40% of your overall grade. Late papers will be marked down two (2) points each day until turned in; extensions will be considered only if requested at least three (3) days in advance of the due date.

Graduate students enrolled in the parallel course Political Science 5331 are expected to attend all the lectures and do all of the scheduled readings. The “additional optional readings” listed at the end of the syllabus are also recommended. Enrolled graduate students will also meet once per week in my office (date and time TBA) to discuss the readings. Graduate students must write either two shorter papers of at least 10 pages each, or one seminar paper of 20 or more pages in length.

## Grading and Expectations

Exams are non-cumulative, each covering roughly one third of the course. They will have two parts: a set of identifications, followed by a short essay. The purpose of the exams is to demonstrate your knowledge of the readings and associated lectures, and will be graded on that basis. There will be a grading curve. Post-curve numerical grades assigned to the exams correspond to letter grades as follows:

97–100	A+	74–76	C
94–96	A	70–83	C-
90–93	A-	67–69	D+
87–89	B+	64–66	D
84–86	B	60–63	D-
80–83	B-		
77–79	C+	59 and below	F

The purpose of the term paper, in contrast to the exams, is to provide students the opportunity to develop and express their own ideas or arguments about social justice. Papers will be graded on how interesting, clear, and persuasive they are. Though they should demonstrate facility with the conceptual tools learned in class, they should not merely recapitulate the readings or lectures: papers that do the latter will generally receive lower marks. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor or assistant instructor during office hours or by appointment to discuss their papers.

*Note on Academic Integrity:* Ethical behavior is an essential component of learning and scholarship. Students are expected to understand and adhere to Washington University's academic integrity policy ([wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity](http://wustl.edu/policies/undergraduate-academic-integrity)). Students who violate this policy will be referred to the Academic Integrity Policy Committee. Penalties for violating the policy will be determined by the committee, and can include failure of the assignment, failure of the course, suspension or expulsion from the University. If you have any doubts about what constitutes a violation of the Academic Integrity policy, or any other issue related to academic integrity, please ask your instructors.

## Inclusive Learning Environment Statement

The best learning environment is one in which all members feel respected while being productively challenged. Washington University is dedicated to fostering an inclusive atmosphere, in which all participants can contribute, explore, and challenge their own ideas as well as those of others. Every participant has an active responsibility to foster a climate of intellectual stimulation, openness, and respect for diverse perspectives, questions, personal backgrounds, abilities, and experiences, although instructors bear primary responsibility for its maintenance.

A range of resources is available to those who perceive any learning environment as lacking inclusivity, as defined in the preceding paragraph. If possible, we encourage students to

speak directly with their instructors about any suggestions or concerns they may have regarding a particular situation. Alternatively, students may bring concerns to another trusted advisor or administrator (such as an academic advisor, mentor, department chair, or dean). All classroom participants – including faculty, staff, and students –who observe a bias incident affecting a student may also file a report (whether personally or anonymously) utilizing the online Bias Report and Support System.

### Course Materials

For this course you will need the following books, all of which should be available for purchase at the Campus Bookstore:

Bentham and Mill, *The Classical Utilitarians* (Hackett)  
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)  
Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Belknap-Harvard University Press)  
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Basic Books)  
Walzer, *Spheres of Justice* (Basic Books)  
Bohman and Rehg, eds., *Deliberative Democracy* (MIT Press)

Additional readings are available online on ARES (the course password is ‘Justice17’).

### Schedule of Required Readings and Assignments

August 28	Introduction (no assignment)
	I. UTILITARIANISM
August 30	Bentham, “Principles of Morals and Legislation,” chs. 1, 4, 13–15; and “The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number” Beccaria, <i>Of Crimes and Punishments</i> , selections (online)
September 4	no class (Labor Day)
September 6	Bentham, “Push-Pin versus Poetry” Nozick, <i>Anarchy, State, and Utopia</i> , p. 42–45 Mill, “Utilitarianism,” chs. 1–2 Sidgwick, “Empirical Hedonism” (online)
September 11	Mill, “On Liberty,” chs. 1, 3 Sidgwick, “Socialistic Interference” (online)
September 13	Bentham, “Principles of Moral and Legislation,” ch. 2 Mill, “Utilitarianism,” chs. 3–5

## II. JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS

- September 18 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, ch. 8  
Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, selections (online)  
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, preface, p. vii–ix
- September 20 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 1–9
- September 25 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 11–13, 15–17, 68
- September 27 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 20–26, 33, 29
- October 2 Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 31, 34–37, 14, 43, 40
- October 4 **First Exam**

## III. LIBERTARIANISM

- October 9 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 2, 5, 9  
Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. ix–xiv, 3–15, 174–182
- October 11 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 15–17, 22–35, 51–59, 65–73,  
88–90, 101–119
- October 16 no class (fall break)
- October 18 Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, p. 149–164, 183, 198–204,  
213–231, 333–334  
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 48

## IV. COMMUNITARIANISM

- October 23 Sandel, “Morality and the Liberal Ideal” (online)  
Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. xi–xvi, 3–30
- October 25 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 31–51, 64–91, 201–206
- October 30 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 95–112, 119–123, 129–154, 160–164,  
206–211
- November 1 Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*, p. 52–63, 281–321
- November 6 **Second Exam**

## V. DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

- November 8 Cohen, “Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy” (in Bohman and Rehg)  
Habermas, “Three Normative Models of Democracy” (online)
- November 13 Cohen, “Procedure and Substance in Deliberative Democracy” (in Bohman and Rehg)  
Habermas, “On the Internal Relation between the Rule of Law and Democracy” (online)
- November 15 Knight and Johnson, “What Sort of Equality Does Deliberative Democracy Require?” (in Bohman and Rehg)

## VI. EXTENDING JUSTICE

- November 20 Intergenerational Justice 1 – Resource Consumption:  
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 44  
Barry, “Justice Between Generations” (online)  
de-Shalit, *Why Posterity Matters*, selections (online)
- November 22 no class (Thanksgiving)
- November 27 Intergenerational Justice 2 – Population:  
Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*, selections (online)  
Narveson, “Moral Problems of Population” (online)
- November 29 The Duty of Justice 1 – Scope:  
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, § 19  
Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality” (online)  
Nagel, “The Problem of Global Justice” (online)
- December 4 The Duty of Justice 2 – Grounds and Limits:  
Rawls, *Theory of Justice*, §§ 55–57, 59  
Walzer, “The Obligation to Disobey” (online)  
Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chs. 18–19
- December 6 Concluding Lecture – The Future of Social Justice
- December 8 **Term Paper Due** (at 12:00 noon)
- December 18 **Third Exam** (3:30 – 5:30 pm)

## Additional Optional Readings

There exists extensive literatures on all the topics covered in this class, and this bibliography is hardly comprehensive. I have selected works here mainly for their usefulness in explaining the arguments we have discussed in class.

### UTILITARIANISM:

Mill, *Representative Government*, and *The Subjection of Women*  
Sidgwick, *The Methods of Ethics*, bk. 4  
Goodin, *Utilitarianism as a Public Philosophy*  
Sen and Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, chs. 1, 11  
Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 2  
Griffin, *Well-Being: Its Meaning, Measurement, and Moral Importance*  
Brandt, *A Theory of the Right and the Good*  
Brink, *Mill's Progressive Principles*

### JUSTICE AS FAIRNESS:

Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*  
Barry, *Justice as Impartiality*, chs. 1, 3–4, and 7  
Pogge, *Realizing Rawls*, parts 1–2  
Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 3  
Kukathas and Pettit, *Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics*, chs. 1–4  
Sen and Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, chs. 5, 8  
Lovett, *Rawls's A Theory of Justice: A Reader's Guide*

### LIBERTARIANISM:

Narveson, *The Libertarian Idea*  
Steiner, *An Essay on Rights*  
Tomasi, *Free Market Fairness*  
Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 4  
Kukathas and Pettit, *Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics*, ch. 5  
Cohen, *Self-ownership, Freedom, and Equality*, chs. 1–4

### COMMUNITARIANISM:

Walzer, *Thick and Thin*  
Miller, *Principles of Social Justice*  
Taylor, *Philosophical Papers, vol. II*, chs. 7 and 11  
Sandel, *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice*  
Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, ch. 6  
Kukathas and Pettit, *Rawls: A Theory of Justice and Its Critics*, ch. 6  
Sen and Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, ch. 6  
Mulhall and Swift, *Liberals and Communitarians*

### DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY:

Christiano, *Rule of the Many*  
Bohman and Rehg, eds. *Deliberative Democracy*, essays 2, 8, and 10

Young, *Inclusion and Democracy*  
Dryzek, *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond*  
Elster, ed. *Deliberative Democracy*  
Knight & Johnson, *The Priority of Democracy*  
Estlund, *Democratic Authority*

EXTENDING SOCIAL JUSTICE:

de-Shalit, *Why Posterity Matters*, chs. 1–5  
Thompson, *Intergenerational Justice*  
Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*  
Pogge, *Realizing Rawls*, part 3  
Singer, *One World*  
Walzer, *Obligations: Essays on Disobedience, War, and Citizenship*  
Miller, *National Responsibility and Global Justice*