

Phil 339 Theories of justice A01

Spring 2024

Instructor: Peter Dietsch, PhD
Lectures: MR 10:00-11:20
Office hours: tbd
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Course description

This course provides an in-depth analysis of some of the main contemporary theories of justice. Among others, it analyses contributions from authors in the utilitarian, liberal-egalitarian, and libertarian tradition as well as their critics and relations between the various theories. In addition, the course provides a perspective on what theories of justice have to say on key debates on social justice today, including issues of climate change or a universal basic income.

Course Website

Online materials will be made available via Uvic Brightspace. Access your customized Brightspace page by signing in to Uvic and clicking on Online Tools. You should see Brightspace as an option.

Texts

Core readings will be available as a course pack for sale at the UVic Bookstore.

Grading System

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Grade Definition
90 – 100	A+	9	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior , shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
85 – 89	A	8	
80 – 84	A-	7	
77 – 79	B+	6	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
73 – 76	B	5	
70 – 72	B-	4	
65 – 69	C+	3	A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.
60 – 64	C	2	
50 – 59	D	1	A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.
0 – 49	F	0	F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the TA in a respectful, open-minded manner. If you are still not satisfied

with your grade, you can ask for a re-correction of the copy by the instructor. The new grade will count, whether it is higher or lower than the original one.

For additional information regarding undergraduate grades, please consult the [Grading](#) section of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic Examinations procedures and regulations.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar [General University Policies](#), but if you have any particular concerns related to our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Graded student activities

- 1h15mins mid-term exam on Monday, February 26 (30%)
- 2-hour final exam (50%)
- Quote & comment (400 words; 10 weeks out of 12; 10%)
- Attendance (10%)

Policy on Late Assignments

Given that individual weekly summaries are worth only 1% of the grade, late submissions are not accepted. Exams missed for ineligible reasons will not be rescheduled.

Plagiarism

Review the [University Policy on Academic Integrity](#) very carefully, and be aware that anti-plagiarism software may be used in this course. Resources will be provided via Brightspace for students seeking guidance about what constitutes plagiarism and how they can avoid it, but it is the responsibility of each student to be informed about these details.

Counseling Services

Many, if not most, students experience some difficulties with their mental health during their years as undergraduate students. Make sure you are familiar with [Uvic Counseling Services](#), which is an excellent resource you have at your disposal on campus. It is hard to shake the stigma associated with problems like depression and anxiety, but if at any point you can benefit from help with mental health issues, please contact Counseling Services. They genuinely want to help, and why not take advantage of this free resource?

Important Dates

Please consult the Uvic calendar's [Academic Year Important Dates](#) for information about last possible dates to withdraw from courses without penalty, examinations period start/end dates, etc.

Technology in Classroom

Chat GPT is not permitted for this course. Some students require laptops or voice recognition apps for their learning strategies, so I do not prohibit their use in the classroom. However, studies demonstrate that multi-tasking reduces the performance of

other nearby students. Therefore, I strongly discourage the use of computers in the classroom. Anyone caught on social media, internet surfing, etc. will be asked to leave and potentially subject to disciplinary action.

Standards for Professional Behaviour

Professionalism is expected from all students enrolled in courses in the Faculty of Humanities. As part of professionalism, students, faculty and staff are expected to be familiar with University policies, including the [Tri-Faculty's Standards for Professional Behaviour](#).

Uvic Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response

Learn more about preventing sexualized violence by visiting www.uvic.ca/svp. If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs advice, and/or support, please contact the Sexualized Violence Resource Office in EQHR, Sedgewick C119; email: svpcoordinator@uvic.ca.

Territory Acknowledgment

The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, visit the Uvic [Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement](#).

Detailed course plan

Week 1 (Jan 8 & 11): Introduction

Compulsory reading

- Bernard Williams, "The Idea of Equality", in Geoffrey Hawthorn (ed.) *In the Beginning was the Deed*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2007, chapter 8, pp.99-114.

Complementary literature

- Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, 4th edition, Oxford University Press, 2023.
- Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Introduction*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press.

Week 2 (Jan 15 & 18): Utilitarianism

Compulsory reading

- Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality", *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 1/3 (1972): 229-43.

Complementary literature

- Robert Goodin, *Utilitarianism as a Public Philosophy*, Cambridge, CUP, 1995, chapter 1.
- John C. Harsanyi, "Morality and the theory of rational behaviour", in Amartya Sen and Bernard Williams (eds.), *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, CUP, 1982.
- John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, edited with an introduction by Roger Crisp, New York, Oxford University Press, 1998. Originally published in 1861.
- Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy. An Introduction*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, chapter 2.

Week 3 (Jan 22 & 25): Justice as Fairness, John Rawls

Compulsory reading

- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, 1999; sections 1-4 (pp.3-19); 11-14 (pp.52-78).

Complementary literature

- John Rawls, Erin Kelly, *Justice as Fairness: A restatement*, Belknap Press, 2001.
- Philippe van Parijs, "Difference Principles", in: Samuel Freeman (ed.), *Cambridge Companion to John Rawls*, 2001.
- Norman Daniels, "Reflective Equilibrium and Justice as Political", in: Victoria Davion et Clark Wolf, *The Idea of a Political Liberalism – essays on Rawls*, Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.

Week 4 (Jan 29 & Feb 1): Ideal theory as ideology

Compulsory reading

- Charles Mills, "'Ideal theory' as ideology", *Hypatia* 20/3 (2005): 165-84.

Complementary literature

- Tommie Shelby, "Racial Realities and Corrective Justice: A Reply to Charles Mills", *Critical Philosophy of Race* 1/2 (2013): 145-62.
- Carole Pateman and Charles Mills, *The Contract and Domination*, Wiley, 2013.
- Charles W. Mills, *The Racial Contract*, Cornell University Press, 1997.
- Elizabeth Anderson, *The Imperative of Integration*, Princeton University Press, 2010.

Week 5 (Feb 5 & 8): Libertarianism

Compulsory reading

- Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1974; chapter 7, section 1.

Complementary literature

- Peter Vallentyne, "Introduction: Left-libertarianism – A Primer", in: Peter Vallentyne and Hillel Steiner, *Left-libertarianism and its critics: the contemporary debate*, Palgrave, 2000.
- Thomas Nagel, "Libertarianism without foundations", *Yale Law Journal* 85 (1975), 136-49.
- Robert van der Veen et Philippe van Parijs, "Entitlement Theories of Justice", *Economics & Philosophy* 1 (1985), pp. 69-81.
- Barbara Fried, "Left-Libertarianism: A Review Essay", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 32/1 (2004), 66-92.
- Matthias Risse, "Does left-libertarianism have coherent foundations?", *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 3 (2004), 337-64.

Week 6 (Feb 12 & 15): Equality of resources, Ronald Dworkin

Compulsory reading

- Ronald Dworkin, "What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10/4 (1981), excerpt (pp. 283-314).

Complementary literature

- Ronald Dworkin, "What is Equality? Part 1: Equality of Welfare", *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 10/3, 1981, 185-246.
- G.A. Cohen, "On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice", *Ethics* 99 (1989), 906-44.

- Elizabeth Anderson, “What is the Point of Equality?”, *Ethics* 109/2 (1999), 287-337.
- Colin MacLeod, *Liberalism, Justice, and Markets – A Critique of Liberal Equality*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1998.
- Joseph Heath, “Dworkin’s auction”, *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics* 3/3 (2004), pp. 313-35.

READING WEEK

Week 7 (Feb 26 & 29): Structural injustice

Compulsory reading

- Iris Marion Young, “Responsibility and global justice: A social connection model”, *Social Philosophy and Policy* 23/1 (2006): 102-30.

Complementary literature

- Maeve McKeown, “Iris Marion Young’s ‘social connection model’ of responsibility: Clarifying the meaning of connection”, *Journal of Social Philosophy* 49/3 (2018): 484-502.
- Tamara Jugov and Lea Ypi, “Structural injustice, epistemic opacity, and the responsibilities of the oppressed”, *Journal of Social Philosophy* 50/1 (2019): 7-27.

Week 8 (Mar 4 & 7): The capability approach

Compulsory reading

- Amartya Sen, *Inequality Reexamined*, Oxford University Press, 1992; chapter 3.

Complementary literature

- John Kane, “Justice, Impartiality, and Equality”, *Political Theory* 24/3 (1996), 375-393.
- Martha Nussbaum, “Aristotelian Social Democracy”, dans: R. Bruce Douglass, Gerald M. Mara and Henry S. Richardson eds., *Liberalism and the Good*, pp. 203-252. New York & London: Routledge, 1990.
- Ingrid Robeyns, *Wellbeing, Freedom and Social Justice*, Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2017.

Week 9 (Mar 11 & 14): Limitarianism

Compulsory reading

- Ingrid Robeyns, “Having too much”, in: Ingrid Robeyns (ed.), *Having Too Much – Philosophical Essays on Limitarianism*, Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2023, selections from chapter 2 (pp.15-47).

Complementary literature

- Brian Berkey, “Limitarianism, Institutionalism, and Justice”, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 25 (2022): 721-735
- Robert Huseby, “Limits of Limitarianism”, in: Ingrid Robeyns (ed.), *Having Too Much – Philosophical Essays on Limitarianism*, Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2023, chapter 6.
- Fergus Green, “Ecological Limits: Science, Justice, Policy, and the Good Life”, in: Ingrid Robeyns (ed.), *Having Too Much – Philosophical Essays on Limitarianism*, Cambridge, UK: Open Book Publishers, 2023, selections from chapter 13.

Week 10 (Mar 18 & 21): Intergenerational justice

Compulsory reading

- Simon Caney, “Cosmopolitan Justice, Rights, and Global Climate Change”, *Canadian Journal of Law and Jurisprudence* XIX/2 (2006): 255-78.

Complementary literature

- Stephen M. Gardiner, “Ethics and Global Climate Change”, *Ethics* 114/3 (2004): 555-600.
- Henry Shue, “Subsistence emissions and luxury emissions”, *Law & Policy* 15/1 (1993): 39-60.
- Kian Mintz-Woo, “A Philosopher’s Guide to Discounting”, in: Mark Budolfson, Tristram McPherson, and David Plunkett (eds.), *Philosophy and Climate Change*, Oxford University Press, 2021, pp.90-110.
- Lucas Chancel and Thomas Piketty, “Carbon and Inequality: From Kyoto to Paris; Trends in the Global Inequality of Carbon Emissions (1998–2013) and Prospects for an Equitable Adaptation Fund,” Paris School of Economics, November 3, 2015, <http://piketty.pse.ens.fr/files/ChancelPiketty2015.pdf>.

Week 11 (Mar 25 & 28): Real freedom for all and a universal basic income

Compulsory reading

- Philippe van Parijs, “Why Surfers Should be Fed: The Liberal Case for an Unconditional Basic Income”, *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (1991), 101-131.

Complementary literature

- Stuart White, “Reconsidering the Exploitation Objection to Basic Income”, *Basic Income Studies* 1/2, DOI: [10.2202/1932-0183.1036](https://doi.org/10.2202/1932-0183.1036)
- Peter Vallentyne, “Review: Self-Ownership and Equality: Brute Luck, Gifts, Universal Dominance, and Leximin”, *Ethics* 107/2 (1997), 321-43.

Week 12 (Apr 4 & 8): Epistemic injustice

Compulsory reading

- Miranda Fricker, “Testimonial injustice”, in: Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*, Oxford University Press, 2007, chapter 1.

Complementary literature

- Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*, Oxford University Press, 2007; chapters 2-3; 7.
- Linda Martín Alcoff, “Epistemic identities”, *Episteme* 7/2 (2010): 128-37.
- Christopher Hookway, “Some varieties of epistemic injustice: Reflections on Fricker”, *Episteme* 7/2 (2010): 151-63.
- Sanford Goldberg, “Anonymous assertions”, *Episteme* 10/2 (2013): 134-51.