

PHIL 6600 Social and Political Philosophy: Rawls

Instructor: K. Wendling

Brief Course Synopsis:

John Rawls was the most important English-speaking political philosopher of the twentieth century. This course will examine the main contours of his theory, focusing on *A Theory of Justice* (Revised Edition), *Political Liberalism* (Expanded Edition, with the "Reply to Habermas") and *Justice As Fairness: A Restatement*. We will then turn to some of the secondary literature on Rawls' work, in particular Habermas' "Reconciliation Through the Public Use of Reason: Remarks on John Rawls's *Political Liberalism*" and work written by philosophers who discuss both Rawls and Habermas (e.g., Thomas McCarthy, Seyla Benhabib). Continental perspectives are welcome.

Texts:

- *A Theory of Justice*, Revised Edition; *Political Liberalism*, Expanded Edition
- *Justice As Fairness: A Restatement*,
- plus some secondary readings.

Assignments (tentative): best 8 of 11 commentaries, plus a final essay (4000-5000 words).