

College of Arts – Online Course Outline Template

Course Code: PHIL * 6600	Section: 01	Semester: W13
Course Title: Social and Political Philosophy		
Instructor: Monique Deveaux		
Brief course Synopsis: <p>This course takes up some recent philosophical responses to the problems of severe poverty and inequality. The growing gap between rich and poor — both within and between nations — raises a number of ethical and normative questions for us: Do the citizens of affluent states have any moral duties to citizens of impoverished states, especially in the face of growing economic globalization and interdependence? Do people deserve the good or bad fortune of their country — or family — of birth, or is this but a random “life lottery” that ought to be corrected through economic redistribution and open borders? If there is indeed a moral imperative to aid the global poor, which political institutions and strategies are best? Some processes of economic development and aid risk reinforcing North-South inequality and exploitation and fail to treat the poor as active participants in change. We will explore critical perspectives on conventional approaches to reducing poverty and arguments for more radical approaches.</p> <p>In addition to surveying the mainstream responses to problems of poverty and inequality — Utilitarian, Kantian, contractarian, and virtue ethical approaches — we will also engage more critical (feminist, Marxist, and post-colonial) perspectives. Authors may include Thomas Pogge, Martha Nussbaum, Amartya Sen, Alison Jaggar, Peter Singer, Mattias Risser, Suzan Ilcan, Rainer Forst, Onora O’Neill, Fuyuki Kurasawa, Ayelet Shachar, and Charles Mills.</p> <p>Textbook(s): TBA</p> <p>Course requirements / evaluation: Class presentation, 5 pg critical summary, 20-25 pp final paper.</p>		

