



PHIL*3230 Theories of Justice

Winter 2020

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - January 05, 2020

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

This is a course in social and political philosophy, which is the area of philosophy concerned with the morality of major social institutions such as the state, the economy, and the family. This course may engage in the detailed examination of one or more of the following questions: what justifies the state's claim to authority? What are the proper dimensions of individual liberty? What levels of material and social inequality are required for a society to be just? These questions will be pursued through reading historical and/or contemporary philosophical texts.

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

What does justice require? This course examines current philosophical debates about what social and political justice demands. Some of these concern the question of how best to distribute resources and opportunities fairly and justly within society (the problem of "distributive justice") Others center on the issue of "cultural justice" – whether and how the state should recognize group-based social differences, such as those relating to religion, language, and ethnicity. Among the theories of justice we will consider are those of liberal "distributive" justice; libertarianism (both of the political right and left); the "capability approach" to justice; and multicultural justice/recognition theory.

1.3 Timetable

Class time: Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:20 MCKN 031

Timetable is subject to change. Please see WebAdvisor for the latest information.

1.4 Final Exam

Final take-home exam, which is a combination of short and long essay questions, is due on Sunday, April 12 at 10 pm/22:00 (EST). The exam questions will be made available no later than Wednesday, April 8.

2 Instructional Support

Instructor: Prof. Monique Deveaux

Email: mdeveaux@uoguelph.ca

Phone: 519-824-4120 x53233

Office: MacKinnon 356

Office hours: Tues, Thurs 11:30-12:30 or by appointment. [Please note, on Feb 4 and Feb 11 only, my office hour is changed to 1:30-2:30.]

TA: Will Valliere (rvallier@uoguelph.ca) and Ilknur Ozalli (iozali@uoguelph.ca)

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Readings (Textbook)

1. Harry Brighouse, *Justice* (Polity Press, 2004).

Readings (Other)

2. Various readings posted on the Ares Course Reserves System.
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4 Learning Outcomes

The course is designed to deepen your ability to read, analyze, critically evaluate, and apply different concepts and arguments to do with *social and political justice*. To do so, it aims to develop your ability to read and comprehend complex materials in social and political theory/philosophy, and to write about ideas clearly and cogently.

Justice is a huge subject, and we won't have time to cover all of the important topics related to it. Our particular focus is on how the state should distribute resources and recognize or accommodate diverse citizens. Please note, the course does *not* address the criminal justice system.

Although it is an upper level course in political philosophy, this course attracts a wide range of students, including non-majors. For students with no Philosophy background who may be unaccustomed to its modes of analysis and argumentation, please understand that there is a learning curve to this. Be patient, take your time with the readings, come see me or the TA for assistance with the material or when you're planning out your written assignments. Most of all: give political philosophy a chance!

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Read and comprehend complex materials in social and political theory/philosophy.
 2. Explain and critically evaluate key concepts and claims of the different theories of justice examined in this course.
 3. Ability to write about ideas clearly and cogently. This includes the ability to construct philosophical arguments by formulating a thesis or central claim, providing good reasons, and arguing for a conclusion.
 4. Apply the different theories of justice studied in the course to concrete issues and problems.
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

This is a large lecture course but one in which class discussion is encouraged. We also do in-class writing exercises and occasional small-group discussion.

See course outline on Courselink for a full listing of lecture topics and readings for each class.

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

Requirement	Description	Weight	Date
In-class writing exercises	Short paragraph that you <i>write and hand in during class</i> . Some are group discussion exercises. Topics/questions given out in class.	10% (2% x 5)	On 7 random class days, we'll do a short in-class writing exercise. <u>Graded pass/fail</u> . To get the full 10% you need to do 5 of these. If you do all 7, you'll receive 1% bonus added to your final grade in the course.
In-class mid-term test	Short & long essay questions.	30%	Tuesday, February 25 in class

(closed book but questions circulated one week in advance)			
Critique of public talk/presentation	2000-word paper (approx. 7 double-spaced pages). Upload to Dropbox folder in CourseLink.	25%	<i>Due one week after the event (you choose which talk to attend, but it must be related to the topic of social/political justice).</i>
Final take-home exam	Short & long essay questions. Covers whole course/cumulative. Upload to Dropbox folder in CourseLink.	35%	Due Sunday, April 12 (10 pm/22h00)

6.2 Assessment Details

In-class mid-term test (30%)

Date: Tue, Feb 25, In class (MCKN 031)

This is an in-class, closed-book mid-term test held on the first class day back after Winter Reading Week. To help you prepare, I will circulate the test questions the week before the test (there will be choice). The test consists of short answer/definition as well as essay-style questions. You are allowed to bring a quotation sheet with you to class, which you may consult during the test (details to follow).

In-class writing exercises (10%)

Date: In class

During several of our classes, I will ask you to take 5-10 minutes to write a paragraph (around 150 words) in response to a specific passage, question, or problem that I assign. Sometimes this will be a group exercise. To get full marks, you will need to be present to complete 5 of these (5 x 2%=10%). *If you do all 7, you'll receive a bonus of 1% added to your final grade.*

What are the exercises? I may ask you to explain a short passage/quotation from that day's

reading, or propose a solution to a dilemma raised by the reading and/or my lecture. This writing exercise may be at the start, mid-way-through, or closer to the end, of class, and is then handed in (in class). Please keep track of how many of these you have done. I will keep all these writing assignments and let you know in the final week how many I have for you, but I will not be able to supply rolling updates.

These are graded **pass/fail**. If your paragraph addresses the question/topic/quotation/problem in some way, you pass. [fail=if you are absent, or if your paragraph is not remotely on topic] There is no "makeup." However, provided you are present on most occasions when we do these in-class exercises, you should be able to complete your full set of 5.

Critique of academic talk/presentation (25%)

Due: Sun, Mar 22, 10:00 PM, Dropbox in Courselink

This is a written analysis and critique of a public academic talk/presentation of your choice (it must relate to the topic of social/political justice, and occur on campus during the semester). Your critique is due one week after the event, and should be around 2000 words (approx. 7 double-spaced pages). You should provide a brief summary of the arguments made by the speaker, raise some questions or make some observations, and provide analysis and critique. More specific details will be provided early in the semester.

There are many talks on campus over the course of the semester that bear on the topic of social/political justice, and these are advertised on the 'upcoming events' pages of the university's website as well as department and program websites. If you are in doubt about whether the subject of the talk relates to our course, check with me or one of the TAs.

Take-home exam (35%)

Due: Sun, Apr 12 - , 10:00 PM, Take-home

This final take-home exam will be a combination of short and long essay questions. The exam questions will be made available on Courselink by mid-day on Thursday, April 9, and

the completed exams must be uploaded to the Dropbox folder.

7 Course Statements

7.1 Laptop and cell phone policy

Cell phones/smartphones should be set to silent mode (not vibrate) and not used during class. If your phone or laptop use is distracting to me or other students I may ask you to leave the classroom.

Laptops may only be used in class for note-taking and for referring back to the reading. The science on this is clear: using them for non-course purposes reduces your comprehension of the course material, and distracts those sitting near you: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0360131512002254>

7.2 Lateness policy

I will deduct 10% for every day that assignments are late (if it is less than 6 hours late, only 5% will be deducted). This applies to the final take-home exam and to your written critique of a public academic talk/presentation (which is due one week after the event). The latest date stamp in the CourseLink Dropbox folder (in cases where you upload revised versions) will be taken as your actual submission date/time. Exceptions are only granted for medical or compassionate reasons, with appropriate documentation.

7.3 Course level/managing expectations

This is a 3rd year Philosophy course that takes up problems in contemporary social and political theory. It is *not* taught at the introductory level, and the material is sometimes challenging. Yes, the course is open to non-majors, but there are also a number of Philosophy majors in the course who are taking the course as an upper-level elective in their subject of specialization. Although I don't assume that you have a Philosophy background, you do need to be prepared to read "theory", and to learn to think and write a Philosophy essay. [And please note, this course does not deal with criminal justice.]

7.4 Submitting written work

All written assignments (except for in-class writing and test) must be uploaded in *.docx or *.doc format to a dropbox folder on our Courselink site. I may also require that you turn in a hard copy of your essays/papers. UofG provides you with free access to Office 365, and Microsoft also makes available a free online version.

Assignments in other formats (pdf, odt, *.pages/apple pages) are not accepted. Late penalties will apply until the work is submitted in the specified format. Please make sure your work is your own – ideas, analysis, and prose. Turnitin is used for all assignments, and

additional software and search engines will be used if plagiarism is suspected.

7.5 Communication

CourseLink: All course announcements, assignments, dropbox folders for assignments, grades, and occasional news links will be posted on CourseLink. Check it regularly.

E-mail is the official means of communication between the University and its students, and that means using your <mail.uoguelph.ca> account. If another email account is your more usual account (gmail etc.), please remember that I will reply to your Guelph account, not your gmail – so be sure to check it regularly.

7.6 Slides and recording

Recording lectures with smartphones or other devices is not permitted. I try to post my power-point slides to CourseLink before class, but if I don't manage to, then will post them soon after class.

7.7 Class format

This is a lecture course, but I will invite discussion (and questions) during class. If you are an especially enthusiastic contributor to class discussion, please remember that I may need to hold off answering your hand until others have spoken, or until I have finished explaining a point. The goal of this is to ensure a good cross-section of student opinion and participation.

7.8 Academic misconduct as it applies to this course

I take plagiarism very seriously and send all cases to the Academic Dean. Please review the university's policy on Academic Misconduct to make sure you understand *what not to do*, because as the policy clearly states, ignorance of what constitutes misconduct does *not* excuse you: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

A common violation is that of *paraphrasing others' ideas without citation*. If you read about a topic in Wikipedia or a philosophical encyclopedia website (or any other site), and then paraphrase those ideas without properly citing and crediting that source, this is a form of plagiarism. The following is from the 2019-20 U of Guelph Academic Calendar, VII: Undergraduate Degree Regulations and Procedures:

1. *Misappropriation of Other's Work, 1. It includes reproducing **or paraphrasing** portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, **and representing these as one's own thinking by not acknowledging the appropriate source** or by the failure to use appropriate quotation marks.**

*<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconductoffen.shtml>

8 University Statements

8.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

8.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

8.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The

deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

8.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

8.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

8.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community-faculty, staff, and students-to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have

the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

8.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

8.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>
