
Thursday 11.30-1.30, SSC 4112.

Instructor: R. Vernon, SSC 4126, office hours Monday 1-3 and other times by arrangement. (ravernon@uwo.ca)

A seminar on some of the main theories of/issues in global justice in recent political theory. Part I introduces the two main theoretical perspectives, cosmopolitan and nationalist. Part II discusses global distributive justice (i.e. issues of wealth, poverty, inequality). Parts III and IV look briefly at issues of retributive and reparative justice (i.e. punishment and compensation).

Assignments:

1. An essay, 12/15 pages, due on December 3, worth 70%. Late penalty 2% per day. Normally the essay will be on one of the week's topics, drawing on the set readings plus the supplementary reading for that week.

2. A weekly one-page (single-spaced) report summarizing what you take to be important in the set readings, to be handed in at the seminar. There is no mark for this assignment, but students who fail to submit at least 8 reports during the term will not be eligible for a participation mark. The report is simply intended to ensure that members of the group are in a position to exchange views about the readings.

3. Participation mark: 30%. This is a seminar course and it works only if everyone does their best to contribute to discussion. The expectation is that no student will let more than two weeks go by without making a contribution. Feel free to introduce questions about aspects of the readings that puzzle you – this is in fact a very important contribution from which the whole group benefits.

Part I: Nationalist and Cosmopolitan Views.

1. Nationalist and Cosmopolitan Ethics:


   Robert Goodin, "What is So Special About Our Fellow-Countrymen?" Ethics 98, 1988, 663-86.


2. “Explanatory Nationalism”:


*Supplementary:* Mathias Risse, “How Does the Global Order Harm the Poor?” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 33, 2005, 349-76.

3. Compatriot Preference:


Part II: Global Distributive Justice.

1. Utilitarianism:


2. Contractualism:


3. Nagel’s “Problem”:


4. What is Exploitation?


Part III: Retributive Justice:

1. The Nuremberg Legacy: “Crime Against Humanity”;


2. Is Collective Punishment Possible?


Part IV: Reparative Justice:

1. Reparations for Colonialism:


Graduate Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf