This seminar is a highly selective exploration of three areas of political theory that deal with transfers of benefits and burdens between generations: in Part I, obligations arising from past injustices; in Part II, the conferring of benefits on children; in Part III, the question of benefits to (and from) non-adjacent future generations.

Evaluation: a final essay, 15-20 pages due April 15, 75% (2% late penalty per day): seminar participation, 25%. The essay will normally explore one of the weekly topics, drawing upon the readings for that week; depending on the approach, it may be necessary to consult the instructor about additional or alternative sources.

**Part I: Taking responsibility for the past.**

1. Do inherited benefits create obligations?


2. Do past injustices get to be superseded in time?


3. Revenge or Forgiveness?


Part II: Giving things to children.

1. Is existence a benefit?


OR if you haven’t read Benatar:

David Benatar, Better Never to Have Been, OUP 2016, chapter 2 (28-49)

2. Conferring genetic benefits


3. Conferring advantages


Part III: Non-adjacent future generations.

1. Do future generations benefit us?


Samuel Scheffler, *Death and the After-Life*, chapter 1


2. Reciprocity, Community or Humanity?


3. Saving for the future


4. Ruling the future.
