Politics 4206a/9762a, Philosophy 9121a: Theories of Global Justice 2018-9.

Thursday 11.30-1.30, SSC 4112.

Instructor: R. Vernon, SSC 4216, 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, and discusses global distributive justice (i.e. issues of wealth, poverty, inequality). Parts II and III look briefly at issues of retributive and reparative justice (i.e. punishment and compensation).

Assignments:

1. 4206a: An essay, 12/15 pages, due on April 6, 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. 9762a/9121a: as above, but the essay should be 15-20 pages.

2. A weekly one-page (single-spaced) report summarizing what you take to be important in the two 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. 9726a/9121a: as above, but the weekly report is to be 1.5 pages (single-spaced) and must cover the supplementary reading for the week in addition.

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, disappoint or annoy you – this is in fact a very important contribution from which the whole group benefits.

Required readings are posted on OWL, files titled “GJ” + the week’s number. Supplementary readings are posted under the author’s surname.

Sept 6– Introduction to the course

Part I: Nationalist and Cosmopolitan Views.

Sept 13: The beginnings: utilitarian (1)


Supplementary:

September 20: The beginnings: contractualist (2)


Charles Beitz, “Justice and International Relations”, *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 4 (4) 1975, 360-89. pages 360-73 only


*No supplementary reading.*

Sept 27: The beginnings (2 - continued)

Beitz, “Justice…”, page 373 to end


*Supplementary:*


Oct 4: Cosmopolitan and nationalist views: foundations.


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

*Supplementary:*


Oct 18: Compatriot Preference:


Oct 25: Border coercion?


David Miller, “Why Border Controls Are Not Coercive”, Political Theory 38 (2010), 111.120.


No Supplementary reading

Nov 1: Transnational Democracy.


Supplementary:


Nov 8: What is Exploitation?


Ruth J. Sample, Exploitation, Lanham: Rowman & Littelefield, 2003, ch. 1


Part II: Retributive Justice.

Nov 15: The Nuremberg Legacy: “Crime Against Humanity”;

Norman Geras, Crime Against Humanity, Manchester University Press 2011, ch. 2.


Nov 22: Is Collective Punishment Possible?


*Supplementary:*


**Part III: Reparative Justice**.

Nov 29: Reparations for Colonialism:


Dec 6: The idea of “climate debt”.


*Supplementary:*


Dec 7: Essays due. There will be additional office hours during the preceding week.