

## Politics 4206F/9762A: Theories of Global Justice

September-December 2023

**Thursday 12:30 – 2:30, SSC 7200**

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00-3:00 pm, Thursday 11:00 am - 12:00 noon

From Plato to John Rawls, *justice* has been a major theme in the history of political theory. But until the 1970s it was thought to be concerned only with the relations of co-citizens within a single state. The modern debates about *global justice* began with the questioning of this assumption: why shouldn't justice focus on the relations of citizens of different states or relations between human beings regardless of citizenship? This political theory course surveys several topics in the modern global justice debates, including the idea of justice in international relations, global poverty, global inequality, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, crime against humanity, global gender justice, climate change, and immigration.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- (1) Describe competing answers to the question, 'What is global justice?', and understand the recent historical development of approaches to this question,
- (2) Identify and assess the arguments for and against specific theoretical perspectives on global justice, including cosmopolitanism, nationalism, and statism,
- (3) Understand the central arguments in debates on key topics in the field, including global poverty and inequality, crime against humanity, global gender justice, climate justice, and immigration.

### How Your Final Mark is Determined

50%: A final essay, due via the course OWL site on **Friday December 8, 2023 @ 4:00 pm**. There will be an essay assignment document on the course OWL site with questions and additional required readings. The essay should be 12-15 pages, 12-point font, double-spaced. Late essays are subject to a penalty of 2% per day.

25%: Weekly written responses. These are to be one page, 12-point font, single-spaced, and should succinctly state what you take to be the main point of each reading, and then state what issue or issues the readings pose for discussion. The object is to ensure that all students arrive at the class with questions, grounded in the readings, that they want to raise. **These responses must be submitted via the course OWL site by 4:00 pm on the Wednesday before class.** They will be graded on a pass/fail basis. You may miss two weeks without penalty. If you miss more than two weeks, you will receive zero for this component.

25%: Participation in the seminar discussion. To be eligible for the participation grade, students must submit a weekly response. I will value the constructiveness of contributions more than sheer quantity. I hope that all students will contribute to every class, or at least will not fail to contribute to two classes in a row.

**Note: All readings are available on the course OWL site in the Resources Folder, except the Nussbaum reading for November 16, for which the link is provided below.**

### **September 7, 2023: Introduction to the Course**

James Christensen, *Global Justice*, London: Red Globe Press, 2020, Introduction, 1-17.

### **September 14, 2023: Justice and International Relations**

Brian Barry, *The Liberal Theory of Justice*, Chapter 12: International Relations, 128-133.

Charles Beitz, 'Justice and International Relations', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 4 (4), 1975, 360-389.

Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, fourth edition, 2023, excerpt on Rawls's theory of justice. I've placed this reading on the OWL site for those who need to remind themselves about the basics of Rawls's theory.

### **September 21, 2023: Global Poverty**

Peter Singer, 'What Should a Billionaire Give – and What Should You?', in Patricia Illingworth, Thomas Pogge, and Leif Wenar (eds.), *Giving Well: The Ethics of Philanthropy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, 13-25.

Elizabeth Ashford, 'Obligations of Justice and Beneficence to Aid the Severely Poor', in Patricia Illingworth, Thomas Pogge, and Leif Wenar (eds.), *Giving Well: The Ethics of Philanthropy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, 26-45.

### **September 28, 2023: Global Inequality**

David Miller, 'Against Global Egalitarianism', *Journal of Ethics* 9, 2005, 55-79.

Christian Barry and Laura Valentini, 'Egalitarian Challenges to Global Egalitarianism: A Critique', *Review of International Studies* 35, 2009, 485-512.

**October 5, 2023: John Rawls's *Law of Peoples***

Allen Buchanan, 'Rawls's Law of Peoples: Rules for a Vanished Westphalian World', *Ethics* 110, 2000, 697–721.

Gillian Brock, *Global Justice*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009, chapter 2, 19-44.

**October 12, 2023: Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism**

David Miller, *On Nationality*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1995, Chapter 3: The Ethics of Nationality, 49-80.

Charles Jones and Richard Vernon, *Patriotism*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018, Chapter 2: Nationalism, Patriotism, and Cosmopolitanism, 35-52.

**October 19, 2023: Coercion and Global Justice**

Thomas Nagel, 'The Problem of Global Justice', *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 2005, 113-147.

Charles Jones and Richard Vernon, *Patriotism*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2018, Chapter 4: Justice for our Compatriots, 71-83.

**October 26, 2023: No Class Today**

**November 2, 2023: Reading Week**

**November 9, 2023: Crime Against Humanity**

Richard Vernon, 'What is Crime Against Humanity?', *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10, 2002, 231-249.

Norman Geras, *Crimes Against Humanity*, Manchester University Press 2011, chapter 2: Why against humanity?, 32-74.

### **November 16, 2023: Global Gender Justice and Capabilities**

Nussbaum, Martha, 'Human capabilities, female human beings', in Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover (eds.), *Women, Culture and Development: A Study of Human Capabilities*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995, 61-104,  
[https://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=YbPmCwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA61&ots=MApLclBnKD&sig=5xJodU0YMBwtOqnv6XpSMF3KQw8&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=YbPmCwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA61&ots=MApLclBnKD&sig=5xJodU0YMBwtOqnv6XpSMF3KQw8&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Alison Jaggar, '“Saving Amina”: Global Justice for Women and Intercultural Dialogue', *Ethics and International Affairs* 19 (3), 2005, 55-75.

### **November 23, 2023: Climate Justice**

Simon Caney, 'Two Kinds of Climate Justice: Avoiding Harm and Sharing Burdens,' *Journal of Political Philosophy* 22 (2), 2014, 125-149.

Peter Singer, *One World Now: The Ethics of Globalization*, New Haven: Yale University Press, third edition, 2016, 'One Atmosphere', 16-68.

### **November 30, 2023: Immigration**

Joseph Carens, *The Ethics of Immigration*, Oxford University Press 2013, chapter 11: The Case for Open Borders, 225-254 & 332-335 (Notes).

David Miller, *Strangers in Our Midst*, Harvard University Press 2016, chapter 4: Closed Borders, 57-75 & 185-189 (Notes).

**December 7, 2023: Essay draft discussion meeting: the essay is due Friday December 8, 2023 @ 4:00 pm.**