Politics 9505b: Intergenerational Justice
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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%; seminar participation, 15%.

**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 Do past injustices get to be superseded in time?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


Matthew Clayton, Justice and Legitimacy in Upbringing, Oxford University Press 2006, chapter

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.


