**Theories of Global Justice**

Politics 4206f/9267a/Philosophy 9117a

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Office hour: 10-11.30 Thursday, other times by appointment

A seminar on the most prominent views of global justice in recent political theory and on some major contested issues in that field.

Looking back at the history of political thought it is a truly remarkable fact that in the whole range of canonical writings, from Plato to Rawls, *justice* was taken to be something that ought to apply only to the relations among citizens of a state – not to the relations among citizens of different states. That assumption was not to be seriously challenged until the late 20th century, thanks to the pioneering work of Peter Singer and Charles Beitz (some of whose work we shall read). Since then the field has grown dramatically, and a one-term seminar can only be selective. For the first four weeks, after our initial meeting, we shall discuss four major general views: Singer’s humanitarianism, the global “harm principle” approach, statism (the view that justice can apply only within states), and nationalism (the view that justice can apply only within nations). In each case, we read an exponent and a critic of the view. We then move on to discuss seven “applied” issue areas in which we can see these general views in collision with one another.

**Evaluation**:

Mid-term exam (take-home): 15%, due October 12 (before 8 p.m.). The question will be set on Oct 6.

A major essay, worth 70%, due on December 9 (before midnight!). It is to be on one of our week’s “applied” topics, drawing on the assigned readings plus the third “supplementary” reading listed. Other readings should not be used except incidentally. If you wish to vary this requirement, for example by writing on a topic that brings two of the weekly topics/readings together, that is entirely acceptable, but clear the idea with me first. 12 pages is suggested as a length for undergraduate essays, 15 pages for graduates. Any form of referencing is acceptable

The essay is subject to a late penalty of 2% per day including weekends.

Participation: 15%. ***To be eligible*** for this portion of the mark, you must submit an acceptable one-page (single-spaced) report on the main readings each week from Sept 13 to December 8, omitting the Oct 13 class. (If you miss one or two weeks that will be forgiven without question.) The report should briefly summarize the main points in each reading and conclude with a question that you think should be discussed: you may be called on to introduce it to the seminar. The report is to be emailed to me by 4 p.m. on the day before the class. ***The mark itself*** will be based on the helpfulness of your contributions to class discussions. Frequency itself is not a criterion, but if you let two weeks go by without contributing your participation mark is likely to be disappointing.

Participation for graduate students: as above, except that your weekly report should be 1.5 pages and should include some consideration of what the third weekly reading might contribute to the topic at hand. You may be given a week’s notice to present a 10-minute commentary on what the third reading contributes.

**Readings** are available from Course Readings (UWO Library).

**Learning outcomes**: I hope that, at the end of the course, students will have a better understanding of the issues discussed than they had before!

Sept 8: Introduction to the course, and an initial discussion of global “vaccine justice” – please read a short paper by E.J. Emanuel et al., “An Ethical Framework for Global Vaccine Justice,” *Science* 369/6509 (2020) 1309-12. (No written report needed, just bring questions/comments.)

Sept 15: Does distance make any difference?

Peter Singer, *One World*, 2nd edition, Yale University Press, 2004, chapter 5 – **pp 150-75 only**

David Miller, “Reasonable Partiality Towards Compatriots,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 8 (2005) 63-81.

Supplementary: Scott Wisor, “Against Shallow Ponds,” *Journal of Global Ethics* 7 (2011) 19-32

Sept 22: A global harm principle?

Thomas Pogge, “‘Assisting’ the Global Poor?” in D. Chatterjee ed., *The Ethics of Assistance*, Cambridge University Press 2004, 260-88.

Kok-Chor Tan, “Rights, Harm and Institutions,” in A.M. Jaggar ed., *Thomas Pogge and his Critics*, Cambridge: Polity, 2010, 46-65.

Supplementary: Mathias Risse “Do We Owe the Global Poor Assistance or Rectification?” *Ethics & International Affairs* 19 (2005) 9-18.

Sept 29: Statism vs. global liberalism

Charles Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, Princeton University Press 1999,

**pp 125-69 only.**

Thomas Nagel, “The Problem of Global Justice,” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 33 (2005) 113-47.

Supplementary: Laura Valentini, “Coercion and (Global) Justice,” *American Political Science Review* 105 (2011) 205-20

Oct 6: Cosmopolitanism vs Nationalism

David Miller, *On Nationality*, Oxford University Press 1995, chapter 3.

Robert Goodin, “What is So Special about Our Fellow Countrymen [sic]?” *Ethics* 98 (1988) 663-86

Supplementary: Gillian Brock, “What do we owe others as a matter of global justice and does national membership matter?” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 11 (2008) 433-48

**October 12: Mid-term exam answer due**

Oct 13: A general discussion of the approaches discussed so far

Oct 20: Should borders be open?

Joseph Carens, *The Ethics of Immigration*, Oxford University Press 2013, chapter 11.

David Miller, *Strangers in Our Midst*, Harvard University Press 2016, chapter 4.

Supplementary: Javier S Hidalgo, “Freedom, Immigration and Adequate Options,” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy* 187 (2015) 212-34

Oct 27: What’s wrong with colonialism?

Lea Ypi, “What’s wrong with colonialism?” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 41 (2013) 158-91

Margaret Moore, “The Taking of Territory and the Wrongs of Colonialism,” *Journal of Political Philosophy* 27 (2019) 87-106.

Supplementary: Laura Valentini, “On the Distinctive Procedural Wrong of Colonialism,” *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 43(2015) 321-341.

Nov 10: Justice and Intervention

C.A.J Coady, “War for Humanity: A Critique,” in D.K. Chatterjee & D. Scheid eds*., Ethics and Foreign Intervention,* Cambridge University Press, 2003, 274-95.

Kok-Chor Tan, “The Duty to Protect,” in T. Nardin and M. Williams eds., *Humanitarian Intervention*, New York University Press 2006, 84-116.

Supplementary: Ned Dobos, “A State to Call their Own,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 27 (2010) 26-38.

Nov 17: What is exploitation?

Matt Zwolinski, “Sweatshops, Choice and Exploitation,” *Business Ethics Quarterly* 17 (2007) 689-727.

Ruth Sample, *Exploitation,* Rowman & Littlefield 2003, chapter 1.

Supplementary: Robert Goodin, *Reasons for Welfare,* Princeton University Press 1998, chapter 5

Nov 24: Beyond the Nuremberg crimes?

Richard Vernon, “What is Crime Against Humanity?” *Journal of Political Philosophy* 10 (2002) 231-49.

David Blunt, *Global Poverty, Injustice and Resistance*, Cambridge University Press 2020, chapter 3.

Supplementary: Norman Geras, *Crimes Against Humanity*, Manchester University Press 2011, chapter 2.

Dec 1: Can whole societies be held accountable?

Toni Erskine, “Kicking Bodies and Damning Souls: The Danger of Harming ‘Innocent’ Citizens While Punishing ‘Delinquent’ States,” *Ethics & International Affairs* 24 (2010) 261-85

Erin Kelly, “The Burdens of Collective Liability,” in D.K. Chatterjee and D. Scheid eds., *Ethics and Foreign Intervention*, Cambridge University Press 2003, 118-39.

Supplementary: Avia Pasternak, *Responsible Citizens, Irresponsible States*, Oxford University Press 2021, chapter 7

Dec 8: What does climate justice require?

Peter Singer, *One World*, Yale University Press 2004, chapter 2.

Simon Caney, “Climate Change and the Duties of the Advantaged*,” Critical Review of International Social & Political Philosophy* 13 (2010) 203-24

Supplementary: “On the Concept of Climate Debt: Its Moral and Political Value,” *Critical Review of International Social & Political Philosophy* 15 (2012), 667-85