



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 653.3 Lec 1 – Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: “Distributive Justice”

Winter Term 2015
Course Outline

Meetings: Thursdays, 6:00-8:45 in SS 006

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Course Description

This is a graduate seminar in political philosophy, with a focus on the concept of distributive justice in the mid 20th Century, from John Rawls to the present day. We will cover topics like the scope of justice, the currency of justice and the nature of the goods of distribution. We will end with a consideration of distributive justice towards future generations.

Required Texts

We will use a combination of journal articles, essays in collections and chapters from books. All the texts will be available on-line, either through the University’s library site or otherwise.

Evaluation

The students will be responsible for ten short précis (1-2 pages) of the weekly readings over the course of the semester, due at the beginning of the weekly meetings. There will also be one research paper, 15-17 pages in length (~5000 words) due at the end of term on **Tuesday, April 14**.

Students will also prepare a talking paper (~3000 words) version of their final paper for presentation to the class. Time permitting, every graduate student will present their paper to the class, and receive comments.

Grade Breakdown

The précis count for 10% of the final grade, the talking paper and presentation 20% and the final paper 70%.

Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

There is **no** Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.

Grading Method

A letter grade from D to A will be assessed for each assignment. The final grade will be calculated by using the GPA equivalents, with the following distribution:

A+ =4.0	A=4.0	A-=3.7
B+=3.3	B=3.0	B-=2.7
C+=2.3	C=2.0	C-=1.7
D+=1.3	D=1.0	F=0

A+ is awarded for outstanding work, although its GPA value is identical to an A grade.

Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted on a case-by-case basis, with some penalty attached, generally not more than one letter grade per week. There will be a drop box for the course, located in the philosophy department offices, on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building. The boxes are emptied daily at 4:00 pm.

Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

Academic Accommodation

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email access@ucalgary.ca. Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

D2L Help

Desire2Learn is the University of Calgary's learning management system which has now replaced BlackBoard. Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.