

POLS 2710
Theories of Justice
Fall 2020
TTH 12:45-2:00

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Office Hours: TTH 2:15- 4:00 and by appointment via Zoom or In-Person
Phone: 314-977-9862
Class Meets: 0200 Morrissey Hall



Course Description

This class exposes students to various ways in which political theorists have attempted to answer the question: "What is justice?" The course covers a variety of theories of justice, including utilitarian, liberal, feminist, and socialist perspectives. The course also applies theories of justice to actual political issues.

Course Objectives

The learning goals for the course include:

1. Students will be able to differentiate between classical and modern conceptions of justice in the Western tradition.
2. Students will be able to describe and articulate the central questions and issues regarding distributive justice in the context of contemporary liberal-capitalist societies.
3. Students will be able to explain and distinguish multiple paradigmatic conceptions of justice as theorized by a diverse array of representative political theorists and primary texts.
4. Students will be able to contrast the varied accounts of justice explored and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.

5. Students will be able to critically articulate their own sense of social justice and offer any corrections to it as fostered by the classroom lectures, discussions, and readings.

Course Attributes

Global Local Justice-Theory, Law, Religion and Politics, Social Science Required (A&S), Urban Poverty - Social Justice, Diversity in the US (A&S)

Required Texts*

1. *A Theory of Justice* by John Rawls
2. *A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues* by Plato (edited by C.D.C Reeve)
3. *The Racial Contract* by Charles W. Mills
4. *Justice, Gender, and the Family* by Susan Moller Okin
5. *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* by G.A. Cohen
6. *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice* by Michael J. Sandel

*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester.

Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(3) Exams	100 points
(1) Final Essay	<u>100 points</u>
	400 points total

Grade Scale in Points

400-368=	A
367-360=	A-
359-348=	B+
347-328=	B
327-320=	B-
319-312=	C+
311-288=	C
387-280=	C-
279-220=	D
Below 220=	F

Examinations

Examinations will be administered through the course’s Black Board site. They will open and close at specific times and will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice, and true and false questions.

Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

Important Dates

March 11th No Class March Break

Course Outline

Dates

Topic

January 28- February 9 Classical Justice and Plato

Readings:

Jan. 28 *The Euthyphro; The Apology; and The Crito* (Reeve)
Feb. 2 *Plato's Republic Bks. I-III* (Reeve)
Feb. 4 *Plato's Republic Bks. IV-VII* (Reeve)
Feb. 9 *Plato's Republic Bks. VIII-X* (Reeve)

February 11- March 2 John Rawls and Liberalism

Readings:

Feb. 11 *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 [sections 10-13] (Rawls)
Feb. 16 *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 2 [sections 11-16], & Ch. 3 [sections 20-27, 82] (Rawls)
Feb. 18 *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 3 [sections 24-27, 29], & Chs. 4 and 5 (Rawls)
Feb. 23 *A Theory of Justice*: Chs. 5, 6 [sections 51-55, 57, 59], & Ch. 8 (Rawls)
Feb. 25 *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 7 [sections 63-67], & Ch. 8 (Rawls)
March 2 *A Theory of Justice*: Ch: 9 [sections 82 and 86] (Rawls)

March 3 Examination One Opens at 5 p.m.

March 9 Examination One closes at 11 p.m.

March 4- March 18 Communitarian Justice

Readings:

- March 4 *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Introduction & Ch. 1 (Sandel)
March 9 *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Ch. 2 (Sandel)
March 16 *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Ch. 3 (Sandel)
March 18 *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Ch. 4 & Conclusion (Sandel)

March 23- March 25 Libertarianism and Justice

Readings:

- March 23 *Anarchy, State and Utopia* [selections] (Nozick)
March 25 *The Virtues of Selfishness* [selections] (A. Rand)

March 30- April 8 Socialism and Justice

Readings:

- March 30 *The Communist Manifesto* (Marx and Engels)
 Anti-Duhring [selections] (F. Engels)
 Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality Introduction (Cohen)
April 1 *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* Chs. 1-3 (Cohen)
April 6 *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* Chs. 4-6 (Cohen)
April 8 *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* Chs. 7-8 & 11 (Cohen)

April 9 Examination Two Opens at 5 p.m.

April 16 Examination Two Closes at 11 p.m.

April 13- April 20 Justice and Critical Race Theory

Readings:

- April 13 *The Racial Contract* Ch. 1 (Mills)
April 15 *The Racial Contract* Ch. 2 (Mills)
April 20 *The Racial Contract* Ch. 3 (Mills)

April 22- April 29 Feminism and Justice

Readings:

- April 22 *Justice, Gender, and the Family* Chs. 1-2 (Okin)
April 27 *Justice, Gender, and the Family* Chs. 3-5 (Okin)
April 29 *Justice, Gender, and the Family* Chs. 6-8 (Okin)

April 30 Examination Three Opens at 5 p.m.
May 6 Examination Three Closes at 11 p.m.

May 4- May 6 Catholic Personalism and Social Justice
Readings:

May 4 *Personalism* Part I, chs. I-IV (Mounier)
May 6 *Personalism* Part I, chs. V-VII (Mounier)

May 6 Final Essay Question is posted at 5 p.m.
May 13 Final Essay Question is due prior to 5 p.m.

Academic Integrity and Honor Code

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is “the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at: https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf.

Disability Accommodations

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at Disability_services@slu.edu or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student’s eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services and within the instructor’s official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact to Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Note: due to accreditation requirements, regulatory differences, and/or location-specific resources, the School of Law, the School of Medicine, and SLU Madrid have their own standard

language for syllabus statements related to disability accommodations. Faculty in those units should seek guidance for syllabus requirements from their dean's office.

Student Success Center:

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about: Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor. University-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to www.slu.edu/success.

Discrimination Policy:

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (Du Bourg Hall, room 36; anna.kratky@slu.edu; 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at https://www.lighthouse-services.com/_StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp To view SLU's policies, and for resources, please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory in person for those who are registered for in-person classes. Any student with more than **2** absences automatically has his or her total points reduced by 10 points. All subsequent absences reduce the grade by **10 points** each time. For those students who have either opted to take the class virtually or find themselves at some point in the semester unable to attend in person, they are required to join the class via the Zoom Link. If for some reason the nature of the student's illness or other events outside of their control prevents the student from participating as required they should contact the instructor immediately to make alternative arrangements for fulfilling the course requirements.

Course Zoom Policies

Only students who have registered for the online version of the course are permitted to participate in the course via Zoom. Exceptions to this policy include students who have determined that they are too ill to attend the class sessions in-person. Those students must **seek the permission** of the instructor before joining the class session remotely, and then must only do so until they are well enough to return to in-person classes. Permission should be sought well in advance of the class session (preferably 24 hours prior to the class meeting) unless an acute emergency has arisen.

Students enrolled in the online modality for the course are **required** to have their video turned on during the class session. Microphones should be muted unless asking a question or participating in the classroom discussion. Because, the instructor will not be able to monitor the chat for the courses, online students who wish to participate should politely interrupt the instructor in order to be recognized.

Class sessions will **not** be recorded and so any students missing class should consult with other students to share notes from lecture and with the instructor during office hours in order to seek clarification or have their questions answered.

Mandatory Statement on Face Masks (Fall 2020)

The University's [*Interim Policy on Face Masks*](#) governs all students, faculty, staff, and campus visitors in all University-owned, leased, or operated facilities. All persons physically present in any such University facility associated with this course shall comply fully with this policy at all times. Masks must be worn before entry to all such University facilities (as well as outdoors on all University property when six feet of distance is unpredictable or cannot be maintained).

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services or Human Resources to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [*ADA Policy*](#). Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the [*Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity*](#). Notification to instructors of SLU-approved

ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

As the instructor of this course, I shall comply fully with SLU's policy and all related ADA regulations.

Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to wear masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks at any time during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.

Note: Accordingly, no consumption of any food will be allowed in class.

Students who do not comply with a request by a SLU instructor to wear a mask in accordance with the University's *Interim Policy on Face Masks* may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:

- dismissal from the course(s)
- removal from campus housing (if applicable)
- dismissal from the University

To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with faculty or staff request to wear a mask in accordance with University policy.

Students are strongly encouraged to identify to their instructor any student or instructor not in compliance. Non-compliance may be anonymously reported via the SLU Integrity Hotline at 1-877-525-5669 (or confidentially via the Integrity Hotline's website at <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/slu>).

Additional Policies/FAQs

How should a student report an absence?

If you must miss class, please contact your instructor by e-mail to inform them of your absence. Notification should be provided at least one day before class, if possible.

How can a student who is unable to be present in class participate in class remotely?

Students who are unable to physically attend class but are well enough to participate remotely are expected to do so. Please see the previous section on course Zoom policies for further information.

What happens if the course instructor is ill or quarantined?

If your course instructor has to quarantine but is well enough to teach, students will be notified by the instructor via email, and class will meet remotely on Zoom at the regularly scheduled time. The Zoom link is available on the course web page in Blackboard. If your course instructor becomes ill and is unable to continue teaching, an alternative instructor will teach the course for as long as necessary.