DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE
Winter 2019
Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Rush T. Stewart
MEETING TIME: T 12:00-14:00
LOCATION: Ludwigstr. 31, Room 021
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 16:00-17:00 and by appointment, Ludwigstr. 31, Room 131
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DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course will be on the just distribution of benefits and burdens across members of a group or society. We will start by considering classic positions on distributive justice like egalitarianism, libertarianism, prioritarianism, and utilitarianism. Then, we will turn to some alternative treatments, including social choice theory and work on fair allocation and envy-freeness. The final third or so of the course will be dedicated to various special topics including fair algorithms, Lerner's egalitarian theorem and income inequality, and intergenerational distributive justice.

PREREQUISITES

Our focus will be on conceptual issues, but this will involve us in a modest amount of formal work. While the course is self-contained, students should be prepared to put in the effort to learn the relevant technical material.

READINGS

All articles and excerpts for the class will be made available on Coursesites. Any relevant handouts or other media will also be posted. On the schedule below, "SEP" refers to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

COURSESITES

To access reading materials and the current version of the syllabus, students must register for Methodological Individualism at Coursesites/Blackboard online. Enroll by going here: https://tinyurl.com/y3csvup4.

REQUIREMENTS

Presentations:	15%
Final Paper:	85%

You should select a paper topic in consultation with me. Each week, email me a brief question or remark you have about the reading by noon on **Monday**. The presentation is intended to be an opportunity to get constructive feedback on a potential term paper topic. The length will depend on the number of people in the course. The final paper should be roughly 4,000-6,000 words or so.

SCHEDULE

It is *very* likely that the schedule will be adjusted throughout the term. Updates will be posted to Dropbox. The schedule reflects dates on which problem sets are assigned.

Date	Topic
15.10	Introductory remarks and syllabus review

	Some Main Positions
22.10	**Prioritarian Liberalism** Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Ch. 1.1-5, Ch. 2.11-15
29.10	Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Ch. 3.26-29 **Libertarianism** Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Ch. 7.1
05.11	Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Ch. 7.2
12.11	**Egalitarianism** Cohen, "The Pareto Argument for Inequality" Sen, "Equality of What?" Optional: McCarthy, "Distributive Equality"
19.11	**Utilitarianism** Resnik, *Choices*, Ch. 6.4 Peterson, *An Introduction to Decision Theory*, Ch. 13.4 Fleurbaey, SEP, "Economics and Economic Justice", Section 3.2
26.11	No Class

	Some Other Approaches
03.12	**Non-Ideal Theory and Social Choice** Sen, *The Idea of Justice*, Part 1, Ch. 4 Sen, "The Impossibility of a Paretean Liberal"
10.12	**Fair Allocation and Envy-Freeness** Brams, Edelman, and Fishburn, "Paradoxes of Fair Division" Sen, *Collective Choice and Social Welfare*, pp. 353–355 Economic Justice SEP Entry, Section 6 Optional: Suzumura, *Rational Choice, Collective Decisions, and Social Welfare*, Ch. 5

	Special Topics
17.12	No Class
07.01	**Income, Inequality, and Poverty** Frankfurt, "Equality as a Moral Ideal" Stewart, "Uncertainty, Equality, Fraternity" Economic Justice SEP Entry, Section 2
21.01	**Fair Algorithms** Angwin, Larson, Mattu, and Kirchner, "Machine Bias" Stewart and Nielsen, "On the Possibility of Testimonial Justice" Optional: Lackey, "Credibility and the Distribution of Epistemic Goods"
28.01	**Intergenerational Equality** Meyer, SEP, "Intergenerational Justice" Basu and Mitra, "Aggregating Infinite Utility Streams with Intergenerational Equity: The Impossibility of Being Paretian"

	Student Presentations
04.02	On final paper topics