

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 2019-20

PHIL 3810F: Justice
(Cross-listed with LAW 5850A)

Term: Fall 2019	Instructor: Andrew Botterell
Day and Time: T 10:30AM-12:30PM, Th 10:30-11:30AM	Office: StvH 2137
Classroom: NCB, Rm. 114	Office Hours: T 1:00-3:00PM, or by appt.
	Office Phone: 519-661-2111 x 85764
	Email: abottere@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

According to John Rawls in *A Theory of Justice*, “[j]ustice is the first virtue of social institutions, as truth is of systems of thought”. In the broadest of outlines, this course will consider two questions: What *makes* a social institution or arrangement just? And: what social institutions or arrangements *are* in fact just?

More particularly, in this course we will consider different theories or accounts of justice and apply them to some puzzles and problems that arise in philosophy, law, politics, and economics. We will first discuss a variety of approaches to justice—including corrective justice, distributive justice, law & economics, egalitarianism, and Marxism—to get clear about what these different theories say, supplementing theoretical writings with legal cases where appropriate. Next, we will apply these approaches to some puzzles and problems that arise when we consider the structure of current social, legal, economic, and political arrangements. Such puzzles may include the problem of global justice, immigration and migration, poverty and homelessness, the redistribution of wealth through taxation, the provision of public goods (such as roads, healthcare, and schools), and the possibility of reparations for historic wrongs.

Authors may include: Aristotle, Rawls, Nozick, Kant, Marx, Nagel, Cohen, Otsuka, Ripstein, Calabresi, Waldron, and Weinrib.

TEXTS

Materials will be made available via OWL. Specific readings are TBD.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students:

- (1) Will have gained a deeper understanding of the differences between some core approaches to the problem of justice.
- (2) Will be able to articulate the key elements of corrective justice, distributive justice, law & economics, egalitarianism, and Marxism.
- (3) Will be in a position to critically analyze practical puzzles and problems using tools drawn from these theoretical approaches.
- (4) Will have improved their ability to express themselves in writing.
- (5) Will have improved their ability to express themselves orally.

- (6) Will be in a position to take more advanced courses in Legal Theory and Political and Social Philosophy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

While not required, regular in-class attendance is *strongly encouraged*, and when you do come to class I expect you to come prepared to discuss the day's assigned readings. (You do *not* need to understand them; but you do need to be in a position to explain to me what it is that you don't understand.) There will be two writing assignments in the course (together worth 60%), in addition to a final exam (worth 40%).

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY POLICIES

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** that govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/policies.html>.

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy; ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested.

The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

SELF-REPORTED ABSENCE FORM

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_322

EVALUATION OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The deadline to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is November 12th, 2019. At least three days prior to this deadline students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

The last day of scheduled classes for the Fall 2019 term is December 5th, 2019. This will be the last day on which course assignments (not including the Final Exam) will be accepted for course credit.

ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

PLAGIARISM CHECKING

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning (519) 661-3030 (during class hours) or (519) 433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.