



Academic Year 2016-2017

Syllabus

Global Society

6 CFU

Prof. Lorenzo Pecchi

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to study the main contemporary theories of justice, namely, utilitarianism, libertarianism, political liberalism, communitarianism and cosmopolitanism which find their roots in the political philosophies of Aristotle, Locke, Hobbes, Hume, Kant, Bentham and Mill. The current political debate in the Western democracies largely reflects these theories and views although the main actors involved do not always have full awareness of it. In the final part of the course we will focus on the growing disparities in economic well-being which have characterized several advanced economies in the last decades. In particular we will make a critical analysis of the traditional efficiency/equality trade off and why we should care about inequality within and between countries.

Teaching Method

Students are expected to read the material for every class and participate in every lecture.

Schedule of Topics

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| Topic 1 | Introduction to moral theories |
| Topic 2 | Utilitarianism |
| Topic 3 | Libertarianism |
| Topic 4 | Political Liberalism (Rawls) |
| Topic 5 | Communitarianism |
| Topic 6 | Cosmopolitanism |
| Topic 7 | Distributive justice and the Equality/Efficiency tradeoff |

Textbook and Materials

The reference book of the course is *Michael J. Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Penguin Group, 2009 which covers most of the above topics, however students are required to read some articles and excerpts from the following books:

Beitz, The Idea of the Human Rights
Friedman, Free to Choose
Goodin, Utilitarianism as a Public Philosophy
Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty
Kant, (1) Grounding of the Metaphysical of Moral
Kant (2) Perpetual Peace: a Philosophical Sketch
Kenworthy, Jobs with Equality
MacIntyre, After Virtue
Mill, Utilitarianism
Nozick, Anarchy, State and Utopia
Okun, Equality and Efficiency
Pogge, World Poverty and Human Rights
Rawls (1), A Theory of Justice
Rawls (2), Political Liberalism
Rawls (3), The Law of Peoples
Rawls (4), Justice as Fairness
Sandel (1), Justice

Sandel (2), Liberalism and the Limits of Justice
Singer, Practical Ethics
Stiglitz, The Price of Inequality
Taylor, The Ethics of Authenticity
Walzer, Spheres of Justice
Wilkinson and Pickett, The Spirit Level

Course Outlines

1. Utilitarianism

Sandel (1), Ch. 2
Mill, Utilitarianism
Goodin, Ch. 1 – 2
(*) Singer, Ch. 1 - 2
The History of Utilitarianism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (plato.stanford.edu)

2. Libertarianism

Sandel (1), Ch. 3
Friedman, Ch. 1 & 5
Nozick, pp. 149 –182
Hayek, Ch. 6
Libertarianism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

3. Political Liberalism

Sandel, Ch. 4 – 5
(*) Kant, Grounding of the Metaphysics of Morality
Rawls (1), Ch. 2 (sec. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14), Ch. 3 (sec. 20, 21,22,23,24,25), Ch.4 (sec.40)
Rawls (2), Introduction
Rawls (4), Part 1
Liberalism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

4. Communitarianism

Sandel (1), Ch. 8
Sandel (2), Introduction, Ch. 1
McIntyre, Ch. 15 – 16
Walzer, Ch.1 – 2 – 3
Communitarianism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

5. Cosmopolitanism

Kant (2)
Rawls (3), sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16
Beitz, Ch. 5 – 6 – 7
Pogge, Ch. 4 – 7 – 8
(*) Taylor, Ch. 1 - 7
Cosmopolitanism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

6. Distributive Justice and the Equality/Efficiency tradeoff. Why we should care about inequality

(*) Stiglitz, Ch. 2- 3 -7
Kenworthy, Ch. 2 – 3
Kenworthy, Efficiency and equality: The illusory trade-off, Europ. Journ. of Polit. Research, 27: 225-254, 1995.
Okun, Equality and Efficiency
Wilkinson and Pickett, Ch. 1-2-3

Items with (*) are optional

Assessment

Course requirements are:

- One short paper (max 5 pages) on topics to be assigned
- Final examination
- Class participation & homework to be done in groups.

Each paper counts for 30 per cent of the course grade, class participation & homework for 20 per cent and final examination for 50 per cent.

At the end of the lecture period, a final written examination on topics 1 to 7 is given. Attendance to the final examination and the short-paper are compulsory in order to pass the exam. Students who fail or do not attend the final examination or who have not participated in class will be evaluated on the basis of a written exam on the whole program.

Office hours

Office hours are after classes.

NOTE: Since the course is provided for a limited number of students, **Erasmus students** who would like to attend this course and take this exam need to contact the Secretariat of Global Governance by e-mail global.governance@uniroma2.it for registration.