



Academic Year 2020-2021

Syllabus

European Thought and Global Justice (12 CFU)

1st module: Prof. Lorenzo Pecchi

2nd module: Prof. Lorenzo Perilli

Course Description

The Course is divided in two modules: European Thought (second module) and Global Justice (first module).

The first module tries to answer to the following question: what do we owe to each other? In looking for plausible answers, we will first study the main contemporary theories of justice, namely, utilitarianism, libertarianism, contractualism and communitarianism 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. An inquire into our duties is interested mainly in identifying and justifying those principles of justice that guide our actions and shape and design our institutions. Since the focus of this course is on global justice our concern is to understand how individuals and states ought to conduct themselves in relation to others on the world stage. In particular we will test the theories of justice in relation to issues such as world poverty, global inequalities, immigration and climate change.

The second module aims at providing students with a common background about the origin and development of the most important features peculiar to European thought, and at giving them the intellectual instruments to understand the issues which make Europe different from, or similar to, other cultures. Comparative issues with Chinese thought will also be touched upon. Students will gain knowledge of the foundations and conceptual base of western political systems (democracy), science, law, philosophy, ethics, and other issues, in their mutual relation.

1st module: GLOBAL JUSTICE

Teaching Method

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

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Introduction to moral theories
Topic 2	Utilitarianism
Topic 3	Libertarianism
Topic 4	Contractualism (Rawls)
Topic 5	Equalization of endowments and capabilities
Topic 6	Communitarianism and Republicanism
Topic 7	Cosmopolitanism vs. Social Liberalism
Topic 8	World poverty and global inequality
Topic 9	Borders: immigration and territory
Topic 10	Climate change justice

Textbook and Materials

The course's reference books are *Michael J. Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?*, Penguin Group, 2009 and *Kok-Chor Tan, What is This Thing Called Global Justice?*, Routledge 2017 which cover large part of

the above topics, however students are required to read selected articles and excerpts from the following books:

Beitz , Political Theories and International Relations
Dworkin, Sovereign Virtue
Dworkin (2), Is Democracy Possible Here?
Friedman, Free to Choose
Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty
Kant, (1) Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals
Kant (2) Perpetual Peace: a Philosophical Sketch
MacIntyre, After Virtue
Mill, Utilitarianism
Miller, Citizenship and National Identity
Mollendorf, Cosmopolitan Justice
Moss, Climate Change and Social Justice
Nozick, Anarchy, State and Utopia
Nussbaum, Creating capabilities
Pettit, Just Freedom
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
Rothbard, For a New Liberty - The Libertarian Manifesto
Sandel (1), Justice
Sandel (2), Liberalism and the Limits of Justice
Sen, Inequality Reexamined
Singer (1), Famine, Affluent, and Morality
Singer (2), Utilitarianism: A Very Short Introduction
Singer (3), Practical Ethics
Singer (4), One WorldOne
Singer (5), The Life You Can Save
Taylor, Philosophical Papers 2
Walzer, Spheres of Justice

Course Outlines

1. Introduction to moral theories

Lichtenberg, Negative Duties, Positive Duties, and the New Harms
Singer, Famine, Affluence, and Morality

2. Utilitarianism

Sandel (1), Ch. 2
(*) Mill,
Singer (2), Ch. 1, 2 & 3
The History of Utilitarianism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (plato.stanford.edu)

3. Libertarianism

Sandel (1), Ch. 3
Rothbard, Ch. 2
Friedman, Ch. 1 & 5
Nozick, pp. 149 –182
Hayek, Ch. 6
Libertarianism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

4. Political Liberalism

Sandel, Ch. 4 – 5

(*) Kant (1),
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

5. Equalization of Endowments and Capabilities

Dworkin, Ch.1 & 2
Dworkin, Ch.1 & §
Sen, Ch.1, 2, & 3
Nussbaum, Ch.2

6. Communitarianism & Republicanism

Sandel (1), Ch. 8
Sandel (2), Introduction, Ch. 1
McIntyre, Ch. 15 – 16
Miller, Ch. 6
Taylor, Ch. 7
Walzer, Ch.1 – 2 – 3
Pettit, The Globalized Republican Ideal
(*) Pettit, Ch1, Ch.2, Ch.3
Communitarianism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

7. Cosmopolitanism vs. Social Liberalism

(*) Kant (2)
Rawls (3), sec. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 16
Beitz, Part 3, 1, 2 & 3
Miller, Ch. 2, 3
Mollendorf, Global inequality and Injustice
Mollendorf, Ch.2 & Ch. 4
Pogge, Introduction, Ch. 4
Singer (4), Ch. 5
Cosmopolitanism – Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

8. World Poverty and Global Inequality

Tan, Ch.2, Ch.3
Milanovic, Global Income Inequality by the Numbers: in History and Now
United Nations, The Millenium Development Goals Report
Singer (5), Ch. 6, Ch. 7

9. Borders: Immigration and territory

Tan, Ch. 9
Tan, The Boundary of Justice and the Justice of Boundaries
Carens, Aliens and Citizens: The Case for Open Borders
Miller, Selecting immigrants
Miller, Ch. 7
Moellendorf, Ch. 3
Hardin, Migration and community
Walzer, Ch. 2

10. Climate Change Justice

Tan, Ch. 12
Mollendorf, Climate change and global justice
Moss, Introduction, Ch. 3
Singer (4), Ch. 2

Items with (*) are optional

Office hours

Office hours are after classes.

2nd module: EUROPEAN THOUGHT

Teaching Method

Taught class, lectures delivered by the Professor will be the main feature. Active discussion with students will also be part of the teaching activity. Students might be asked to write unannounced short essays in class on topics dealt with in the previous lessons. They will also be asked to read some materials beforehand. About one half of the module will be devoted to a discussion of two topics: 1) Fyodor Dostoyevsky's chapter called "The Grand Inquisitor" in *The Brothers Karamazov*. Students are required to read the chapter thoroughly in advance (see bibliography below), in order to be able to follow the arguments presented during the class and actively participate in the discussion. 2) The notion of digital objects as non-things and our relation as knowing subjects to reality, the workings of the human mind in perception and memory, with contributions in class by psychiatrist Prof. Alfonso Troisi.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	The birth and first development of democracy as a political system. Thucydides' Athens.
Topic 2	Inference, induction, deduction. The method of scientific research and the notion of science. China and the West, compared.
Topic 3	The role of religion in society and its competitiveness towards rational thought – Ancients and moderns (Plato and Khomeini).
Topic 4	Individual, collectivity, community: rights, duties, obligations and the history of Europe.
Topic 5	God, Freedom, Power: Fyodor Dostoyevsky's <i>The Grand Inquisitor</i>
Topic 6	The non-things and the digital order of the world.

Textbook and Materials

Books and articles:

Thucydides, *Pericles' Speech*.

Thucydides, *The Melian Dialogue*.

C. Ginzburg, *Clues: Roots of a Scientific Paradigm*, in C. Ginzburg, *Clues, myth and the historical paradigm*, Johns Hopkins University Press 1989, pp. 96-125.

S. Weil, *The Need for Roots*, London 1952 (part 1 and other selected pages).

F. Dostoyevsky, *The Grand Inquisitor, with related chapters from The Brothers Karamazov*. Edited, with an Introduction, by Charles B. Guignon, Hackett Publishing Company, Indianapolis/Cambridge, 1993 [From the beginning to Chapter 5–The Grand Inquisitor. It is recommended to read the introduction after reading the other chapters].

Byung-Chul An, *Undinge: Umbrüche der Lebenswelt*, Ullstein Verlag, Berlin, 2021 (English translation forthcoming: *Non-things: Upheaval in the Lifeworld*, Wiley. In case the English translation will not be available in due time, students will be provided with alternative reading matter)

Further material will be made available during the class.

Office hours

Students can speak with the Professor after each lesson or they can set up a meeting by writing an e-mail to lorenzo.perilli@uniroma2.it

ASSESSMENT

First Module (6 CFU, one half of the final grade)

Group work (requirement A) counts for 35% per cent of the module grade, while the final exam (requirement B) must be done individually and counts for 65% of the module grade. Attendance to the class and together with the fulfillment of A and B requirements are compulsory. Students who do not attend and do not participate in the activity of the class will be evaluated only on the basis of the final written exam.

Non-attending students (students with less than 80% of presence in class) will be assessed 100% on the written final exam.

Second Module (6 CFU, one half of the final grade)

Attendance and participation to classroom activity: 25%; final exam: 75%.

At the end of the lecture period, a final written examination on topics 1 to 5 is given. Attendance to the final examination is compulsory in order to pass the exam. Students who fail the final examination will need to give a new complete examination in different exam dates of the year.

Attendance is compulsory. In case of unforeseen hindrances causing actual impossibility to attend ((less than 80% presence), students will be given extra readings and shall have to write a paper, in addition to the final exam.

Please be aware: students will be able to be considered for the first round (“appello”) grade of the exam only by sustaining BOTH modules’ exams, the exam of module 1 during the MIDTERM week and the exam of module 2 at the end of lectures. Students who do not attend/pass/accept the grade of module 1 in the MIDTERM week cannot sustain the first exam of module 2 but will be able only to sustain both exams in the second round of the Summer session or of the Fall session. The student can reject ONLY the final grade of the average of the 2 exams. If they do that, they will have to retake the exam in the following rounds (appelli) by doing again the exams of BOTH modules.

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.