Distributive Justice and Consequentialist Morality.
This seminar explores two connected themes. The first topic (weeks 1-6) is contemporary theories of distributive justice—justice in the distribution of benefits and burdens among persons. Two versions of liberalism are canvassed. Lockean liberalism is process-oriented, and holds the just distribution to be whatever distribution comes about when individuals respect one another’s individual rights as they interact with each other. Egalitarian liberalism is outcome-oriented, and holds that social justice requires the compensation of individuals and the regulation of institutions to bring about (what the theory specifies to be) a fair distribution of prospects for a good life for all. We shall be concerned to assess the different ways that outcome-oriented theories blend social and individual responsibility for the individual’s life prospects.

The outcome-oriented theories of justice are broadly speaking consequentialist in the sense that according to them institutions, policies, and acts are judged according to their expected consequences. Consequentialist moralities attract deontological criticisms. Weeks 7-10 of the seminar examine contemporary discussions of deontology.

Seminar discussions will be self-contained; no prior background knowledge is presupposed. The deontology section of the seminar focuses on writers working in the Kantian tradition, but our interest is in the merits of the philosophical ideas being proposed, not their degree of fidelity to Kant’s texts.

Course texts: Samuel Scheffler, *Consequentialism and Its Critics*; Christine Korsgaard, *Creating the Kingdom of Ends*; Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*; and John Roemer, *Theories of Distributive Justice*. Other required readings will be in a course packet available from Cal Copy. Copies of recommended readings will be collected in the Philosophy Department Library.

Course requirements: regular participation in seminar discussions, a seminar presentation; and a term essay.

(The readings listed as “recommended readings” below suggest further avenues of thought for anyone who might be writing an essay on some aspect of that week’s topic. Seminar discussions will concentrate on the required readings.)

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**

**Week 1.** Contemporary Liberal Egalitarian Theories of justice and the Critique of Utilitarianism: John Rawls and Ronald Dworkin.
Reading: none required.

**Week 2.** Resourcism and Welfarism.
Recommended: Roemer, *Theories of Distributive Justice*, chapter 7; also Philippe Van Parijs, *Real Freedom for All*, chapter on Dworkin.

Reading: Derek Parfit, “Equality or Priority?”, Lindley Lecture; Larry Temkin, chapter 9 of his Inequality; and Shelly Kagan, “Equality and Desert,” typescript.
Recommended: Harry Frankfurt, “Equality as a Moral Ideal,” in his The Importance of What we Care About. also Frankfurt, “Equality and Respect,” typescript.

Week 5. Lockean Theories of Justice.
Reading: Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice," chapter 7 in Anarchy, State, and Utopia.
Recommended: Roemer, chapter 6; also A. John Simmons, The Lockean Theory of Rights, chapter 5, “Property Rights.”

Week 6. The structure of Lockean Theories: Infringement, Violation, Boundary Crossing.
Recommended: Gijs Van Donselaar, chapter 3 of The Benefit of Another’s Pains.

Week 7. Rights.

Week 8. Rights and Deontology.

Reading: Christine Korsgaard, Creating the Kingdom of Ends, chapters 2-4.
Recommended: Barbara Herman, “Leaving Deontology Behind”; also Thomas Hill, “Humanity as an End in Itself,” reprinted in Hill, Dignity and Practical Reason/.

Week 10. "Kantsequentialism.”
Reading: David Cummiskey, Kantian Consequentialism.