

PHILOSOPHY 224 SOCIAL & POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY FALL, 1998
CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Instructors: Richard Arneson and Gerald Doppelt.

Tuesdays 2:20-5:10 in H & SS 7077

Readings not included in the texts at the Bookstore will be available in a Cal Copy reader.

Week 1. Introduction. Reading: None.

Week 2. J. S. Mill's utilitarian liberalism.

Reading: Mill, Utilitarianism, chapters 1, 2, and 5; On Liberty, chapters 1-3.

Mill's claims: (1) Morality requires that institutions, practices, and actions be set so as to produce the best possible outcomes; (2) Outcomes are to be evaluated by the utility they contain; (3) the utility of an individual life equals the net sum of the pleasure and pain the individual experienced, with the value of pleasures and pains being determined by informed choice; (4) Liberal rights such as freedom of expression and the right not to be imposed on paternalistically are justifiable as means for increasing aggregate utility; and (5) individuality (development of one's individual nature according to a reasonable plan of life chosen in the light of values affirmed after critical reflection) is necessary for achieving high utility in one's life or at least a very important and reliable means to achieving it.

Week 3. Taking Rights Seriously I

Readings: John Rawls, A Theory of Justice, excerpts; also Thomas Nagel, "Rawls on Justice".

Further reading: Allen Buchanan, precis of a Theory of Justice.

Week 4. Taking Rights Seriously II

Readings: Ronald Dworkin, "What Is Equality: Part 1: Equality of Welfare," and "What Is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources," Philosophy and Public Affairs, Summer and Fall, 1981.

Further reading: Will Kymlicka, "Liberal Equality," chapter 3 of his Contemporary Political Philosophy: an Introduction; also Elizabeth Anderson, "What's the Point of Equality?".

Rawls and Dworkin hold: (A) Morality requires fulfillment of individual rights; (B) Individual rights are justifiable not as means to utility but by reference to an ideal of human equality that fixes what we together owe one another; (C) rights regulate the distribution of resources or primary goods, not utility; (D) the justification of (C) is that individuals are responsible for their ends and choices and that there is intractable disagreement among rational persons concerning the nature of utility or human good; (E) morality requires not the maximization of anything but rather equalizing or maximinizing resources or primary goods;

and (F) some primary goods are more important than others, so some rights take priority over others.

Week 5. Rights, Capabilities, and Functionings.

Reading: Amartya Sen, "Rights and Agency," in Consequentialism and Its Critics; also Sen, Inequality Reexamined, chapters 1-5.

Further reading: Bernard Williams, "Integrity," in Consequentialism and Its Critics; Robert Nozick, "Side Constraints," in Consequentialism and Its Critics.

Week 6. Justice and Gender.

Reading: Susan Moller Okin, Justice, Gender, and the Family, chapters 6, 7, and 8; Richard Arneson, "Discrimination and Equality."

Week 7. Communitarianism

Reading: Michael Sandel, Liberalism and the Limits of Justice, excerpts; G. Doppelt, "Is Rawls's Kantian Liberalism Coherent and Defensible?"

Week 8. Liberalism and Culture.

Reading: Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition," in Taylor, Gutmann, et al, Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition; G. Doppelt, "Does Liberalism Require group Rights for National and Cultural Minorities?"

Further reading: commentaries by Amy Gutmann, Antony Appiah, Michael Walzer, and Susan Wolf, in Multiculturalism: Examining the Politics of Recognition.

Week 9. Justice and the Struggle for Recognition .

Reading: Axel Honneth, The Struggle for Recognition: The Moral Grammar of Social Conflicts, chapters 5, 6, 8, and 9, plus the Introductions.

Further reading: Michele M. Moody-Adams, "Race, Class, and the Social Construction of Self-Respect".

Week 10. Kantian Respect for Persons

Reading: Christine Korsgaard, "Kant's Formula of Humanity" and "The Right to Lie: Kant on Dealing with Evil"; both in her Creating the Kingdom of Ends.

Further reading: Korsgaard, "Creating the Kingdom of Ends: Reciprocity and Responsibility in Personal Relations" and "Kant's Formula of Universal Law," both in her Creating the Kingdom of Ends.