

FIQWS 1045: JUSTICE

Spring 2011

M & W 9:30-10:45am

Instructor: Jennifer M. Morton

E-mail: jmorton@ccny.cuny.edu

Office: NAC 5/136C Phone: x7637

Office Hours: M 2-3pm, W 11-12pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce you to the major philosophical theories of justice. What is justice? Is justice fairness? What does it require of us as citizens and as individuals? To whom do we owe justice? We will also discuss contemporary issues of justice such as animal rights, immigrant rights, and multiculturalism.

READING: The required texts for this course are:

- Michael Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do? (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2009)
- Lewis Vaughn, Writing Philosophy (Oxford University Press, 2006)

All other readings will be available on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- 11 one-page written assignments (Reading Responses) due at the beginning of class every Wednesday. **NO LATE Reading responses** will be accepted (no exceptions!). You will have the option to make up for ONE reading response during the last week of term.
- Two polished papers each of which will be preceded by a graded draft. Late papers will only be accepted in cases of emergency AND arrangements must be made with me at least **48 hours in advance**.
- In-class assignments and quizzes which **cannot be made up** if class is missed.
- Active class participation will count for a significant portion of your grade; therefore, attendance is required. You will be granted up to 3 **excused** (medical, family emergencies, etc) absences, any absences above that number will affect your grade significantly.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Research Paper 30%
Research Paper Draft 5%
First Paper 20%
First Paper Draft 5%
Reading Responses 15%
Quizzes/In-Class Assignments 15%
Participation 10%

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course you should have made progress toward achieving the following three goals:

- Developing your writing's accessibility, conciseness, and clarity with the help of your writing instructor.
- Reading philosophical texts (both historical and contemporary) in order to understand the central question addressed and summarize the central philosophical position developed.
- Understand the differences between the central philosophical approaches (utilitarianism, libertarianism, egalitarianism, and virtue theory) to justice issues and their application to concrete cases.
- Explain, evaluate, and develop philosophical arguments in your academic and non-academic writing.

DATE	READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITING ASSIGNMENT	
M	1/31	Martin Luther King, Jr., A Letter from A Birmingham Jail	
W	2/2	Sandel, Justice, Chapter 1: Doing the Right Thing Vaughn, <u>Writing Philosophy</u> , Chapter 1	Reading Response #1
UTILITARIANISM			
M	2/7	Sandel, Chapter 2: Utilitarianism	
W	2/9	Mill, Utilitarianism. Chapters 1-2	Reading Response #2
M	2/14	Mill, Utilitarianism. Chapters 3-4	
W	2/16	Mill, Utilitarianism. Chapter 5	Reading Response #3
2/21 NO CLASS (PRESIDENT'S DAY)			
W	2/23	Ian Parker, The Gift (The New Yorker, 2004) Vaughn, <u>Writing Philosophy</u> , Chapter 2	Reading Response #4
LIBERTARIANISM			
M	2/28	Library Session	
W	3/2	Sandel, Chapter 3: Do We Own Ourselves? Libertarianism	Reading Response #5
M	3/7	Carney, Scott. "Inside India's Rent-A-Womb Business." Mother Jones (March/April 2010)/Vaughn <u>Writing Philosophy</u> Chapter 3	
W	3/9	Sandel, Chapter 4: Markets and Morals	Reading Response #6
DEONTOLOGY & EGALITARIANISM			
M	3/14	Kant, What is Enlightenment?/Vaughn <u>Writing Philosophy</u> Chapter 4	
W	3/16	Sandel, Chapter 5: What Matters is the Motive: Immanuel Kant	Paper #1 Draft Due
M	3/21	Sandel, Chapter 6: The case for Equality: John Rawls	
W	3/23	Sandel, Chapter 7: Arguing Affirmative Action	Reading Response #7
M	3/28	Gladwell, Malcolm, Selections from <u>Outliers?</u> /Midterm Assessment	
W	3/30	Gladwell, Malcolm, Selections from <u>Outliers</u>	Paper #1 Due
VIRTUE & COMMUNITARIANISM			
M	4/4	Sandel, Chapter 8: Who Deserves What? Aristotle	
W	4/6	Sandel, Chapter 9: What do we owe one another? Dilemmas of Loyalty	Reading Response #8
M	4/11	Sandel, Chapter 10: Justice and the Common Good	
W	4/13	Obama, Selections from <u>The Audacity of Hope</u>	Reading Response #9
4/17-4/46 NO CLASSES Spring Break			
W	4/27	Plato, <u>The Apology</u>	Reading Response #10
M	5/2	Plato, <u>The Apology</u>	
CONTEMPORARY DEBATES			
W	5/4	Thiessen, Marc "Wiki Leaks Must Be Stopped" <u>The Washington Post</u> Samuels, David "The Shameful Attacks on Julian Assange" <u>The Atlantic</u>	Paper #2 Draft Due
M	5/9	Carens, Joseph, "The Case for Amnesty"	
W	5/11	Okin, Susan, "Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?"	Reading Response #11
M	5/16	Singer, Peter, "All Animals are Equal"	
W	5/18	Wrap-Up	Response Make Up
M	5/20	Final Paper Due via e-mail submission to jmorton@ccny.cuny.edu and sammval@gmail.com .	