

## **Introduction to Political Philosophy Winter 2015**

**PROFESSOR: BEN LAURENCE**

**OFFICE: ROSENWALD 218-B**

**OFFICE HOURS: W 3-4 TH 1:30-2:30**

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In this course we will investigate what it is for a society to be just. In what sense are the members of a just society equal? What freedoms does a just society protect? Must a just society be a democracy? What economic arrangements are compatible with justice? In the second portion of the class we will consider gender hierarchy and racial inequality in the US in light of our previous philosophical conclusions.

**COURSE WEBSITE:** This course has a chalk. You should get in the habit of checking the website at least once a week. To access the chalk go to [www.uchicago.edu](http://www.uchicago.edu) and click on “student”. Chalk should appear as a button on the left hand side. Clicking on that should take you to a list of chalks for the courses in which you are enrolled. All readings, aside from the two required texts, *A Theory of Justice* and *The Imperative of Integration*, that can be purchased at the Seminary Coop Bookstore, can be found on the chalk for this course under the “assignments” button, grouped in folders by week. You will also be able to find this syllabus, and contact information for your CA and me. Course material (paper assignments, handouts, study guides, etc.) will regularly be made available on the site.

<b>GRADING:</b>	<b>PAPER ONE:</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>PAPER TWO:</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>FINAL EXAM:</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>PARTICIPATION:</b>	<b>10%</b>

For exam dates and due dates for papers, consult the syllabus below. Participation credit accrues to those who regularly attend both the lecture and discussion sections, and who participate actively in discussions there. Credit is also given for evident effort and improvement.

# SYLLABUS OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

## Part I: Ideal Theory

### WEEK 1: Rawls on Justice

- 1/5 INTRODUCTION
- 1/7 JOHN RAWLS, *A THEORY OF JUSTICE*, CHAPTER I, §§1-4 & 9  
T.M. SCLANON, "RAWLS ON JUSTIFICATION", PARTS I-II

### WEEK 2: Rawls' Two Principles of Justice

- 1/12 JOHN RAWLS, *A THEORY OF JUSTICE*, CHAPTER II, §§11-17  
OPTIONAL: PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS, "DIFFERENCE PRINCIPLES"
- 1/14 JOHN RAWLS, *A THEORY OF JUSTICE*, CHAPTER II, §§11-17  
(The same)

### WEEK 3: Rawls on the Priority of Liberty

- 1/19 NO CLASS!  
MLK DAY
- 1/21 JOHN RAWLS, *A THEORY OF JUSTICE*  
CHAPTER I, §§5-8  
CHAPTER III, §§20-29  
OPTIONAL: SAMUEL FREEMAN, *RAWLS*, CHAPTER IV

### WEEK 4: Critics I: Libertarianism

- 1/26 JOHN RAWLS, *A THEORY OF JUSTICE*  
CHAPTER IV, §§33 & 49
- 1/28 ROBERT NOZICK, *ANARCHY, STATE, AND UTOPIA*, CHAPTER 7, §1, PP. 150-182

### WEEK 5: Critics 2: Feminism

- 2/2 SUSAN MOLLER OKIN, *JUSTICE, GENDER, AND THE FAMILY*, CHAPTERS 1 & 5
- 2/4 SUSAN MOLLER OKIN, *JUSTICE, GENDER, AND THE FAMILY*, CHAPTERS 7-8

## **Part II: Nonideal Theory: Racial Inequality in the US**

### WEEK 6: *What is Race?*

- 2/9 NAOMI ZACK, *THINKING ABOUT RACE*, CHAPTER 1  
K. ANTHONY APPIAH, "RACE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY", PART I  
OPTIONAL: STEVE OLSON, "THE GENETIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF RACE"  
**PAPER 1 DUE IN HARDCOPY IN LECTURE!**
- 2/11 NAOMI ZACK, *THINKING ABOUT RACE*, CHAPTERS 2-3  
K. ANTHONY APPIAH, "RACE, CULTURE, AND IDENTITY", PART II

### WEEK 7: *Racial Inequality in the US: History and Theory*

- 2/16 ELIZABETH ANDERSON, *THE IMPERATIVE OF INTEGRATION*, CHAPTER 1  
DOUGLAS MASSEY, *AMERICAN APARTHEID*, CHAPTERS 2-3
- 2/18 ELIZABETH ANDERSON, *THE IMPERATIVE OF INTEGRATION*, CHAPTER 2-3  
BEGIN TO EXPLORE ANDERSON'S WEBSITE: *RACE AND GEOGRAPHY IN THE US*

### WEEK 8: *Racial Inequality in the US: Normative Assessment*

- 2/23 ELIZABETH ANDERSON, *THE IMPERATIVE OF INTEGRATION*, CHAPTERS 4-5
- 2/25 ELIZABETH ANDERSON, *THE IMPERATIVE OF INTEGRATION*, CHAPTER 8

### WEEKS 9: *Segregation and Policing in Ferguson*

- 3/1 NEW YORK TIMES, "WHAT HAPPENED IN FERGUSON?"  
RICHARD ROTHSTEIN, "THE MAKING OF FERGUSON", *ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE WORKING PAPER*
- 3/3 EXCERPTS, JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON POLICE PRACTICES IN FERGUSON

### WEEK 10: *From Theory to Action: Social Movement and Social Change*

- 3/8 BLACK LIVES MATTER, "BLACK STATE OF THE UNION"  
GLENN LOURY AND RESPONDANTS, "FERGUSON DIDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING? WHAT WILL?" IN *BOSTON REVIEW*
- 3/10 SUMMARIES AND CONCLUSIONS

### WEEK 11

- 3/18 **FINAL EXAM DUE BY EMAIL TO YOUR CA BY 5PM**