

# Political Philosophy

## Distributive Justice

Philosophy 350

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### I. Required Texts:

Will Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Oxford University Press, 2002).

### II. Grading:

Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%
Term Paper:	25%
Reading Summaries and Participation:	25%

Exams: The exams will be 50% essay and 50% multiple choice. The essay questions will be provided before the test to encourage you to focus your study on the central issues and to encourage you to study with other students. I encourage group studying because students learn philosophical ideas best through dialogue.

Term Paper: One eight to ten page paper on a topic covered in class. You will receive an additional handout on the paper requirements later in the term.

Reading Summaries: Reading summaries are short (approximately one single spaced page) descriptions of the positions and arguments in a text. They are designed to help you read closely and to encourage you understand an author's position before you evaluate it. Consequently, they do not include any evaluation of the text. Everyday that we read a new section of the text you are responsible for a reading summary.

*Late reading summaries will not be accepted.*

*Late term papers are penalized as follows:*

Up to 24 hours – half a letter grade

24 to 48 hours – one letter grade

48 to 72 hours – two letter grades

Assignments turned in after 72 hours receive a failing grade.

I will sometimes grant brief extensions, but you must request the extension at least one class period before the assignment is due.

Participation: You are expected to come to class and participate in classroom discussion. Excellent participation may raise your final grade and poor participation (including excessive absences and a failure to participate in discussion) may lower your final grade.

### III. Schedule:

Week 1: January 5 – 9

Mon: Introduction

Wed: Will Kymlicka, "Introduction" and "Utilitarianism," pp. 1 – 20.

Fri: Will Kymlicka, "Utilitarianism," pp. 20 – 52.

Week 2: January 12 – 16

Mon: Will Kymlicka, "Liberal Equality," pp. 53 – 101.

Wed: Ronald Dworkin, "Equality of Welfare"

Fri: Ronald Dworkin, "Equality of Resources"

Week 3: January 19 – 23

Mon: Will Kymlicka, "Libertarianism," pp. 102 – 127; Robert Nozick, "Distributive Justice"

Wed: Will Kymlicka, "Libertarianism," pp. 128 – 138; Milton Friedman, "The Relation between Economic Freedom and Political Freedom"

Fri: Will Kymlicka, "Libertarianism," pp. 138 – 165; G. A. Cohen, "Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat;" Charles Taylor, "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty"

Week 4: January 26 – 30

Mon: continued

Wed: Will Kymlicka, "Marxism," pp. 166 – 207.

Fri: G. A. Cohen, "Incentives, Inequality, and Community"

Week 5: February 2 – 6

Mon: Will Kymlicka, "Communitarianism," pp. 208 – 261.

Wed: Michael Walzer, "Complex Equality," and "Tyrannies and Just Societies"

Fri: "Communitarianism," pp. 261 – 283.

Week 6: February 9 – 13

Mon: Anthony Quinton, "Conservatism"

Wed: **Midterm**

Fri: *Reading period*

Week 7: February 16 – 20

Mon: "Citizenship Theory," pp. 284 – 326.

Wed: Peter Singer, "A Changing World" and "One Atmosphere"

Fri: Peter Singer, "One Economy"

Week 8: February 23 – 27

Mon: Peter Singer, "One Law"

Wed: Peter Singer, "One Community"

Fri: "Multiculturalism," pp. 327 – 376.

Week 9: March 1 – 5

Mon: *Dean's Day*

Wed: Jeff Spinner-Halev, "Extending Diversity: Religion in Public and Private Education"

Fri: Ayelet Shachar, "Should Church and State be Joined at the Altar? Women's Rights and the Multicultural Dilemma"

Week 10: March 8 – 12

Mon: "Feminism," pp. 377 – 386; Ann Cudd and Leslie Jones, "Sexism"

Wed: "Feminism," pp. 386 – 398; Jane Mansbridge and Susan Moller Okin, "Feminism"

Fri: "Feminism," pp. 398 – 430; **Term Paper Due**

Final Exam: Tuesday March 16, 8:30 a.m.