

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to explore the scope of government’s permissions and obligations toward its citizens, with special attention to whether – and if so, the extent to which – governments have the legitimate moral authority to provide welfare for its citizens. We will do so by investigating the competing theories of John Rawls (as developed in his book ‘Theory of Justice’) and Robert Nozick (as developed in his book ‘Anarchy, State, and Utopia’). We will read excerpts from each book with the aim of developing a firm grasp of the Rawls’s and Nozick’s theories. Afterwards, we will critically evaluate these theories by reading a host of articles aiming at clarifying and criticizing those theories.

Grading

Tests - There will be two take-home exams. They will be worth 45%, and 55% of your total grade, respectively. Each exam will consist of a set of short-answer questions from which you will be required to answer a certain number of them. All exams will be turned in electronically.

Attendance - I will not take attendance. However, it is in your interest to show up to class. The readings can be quite difficult; the purpose of lecture is to elucidate and supplement these readings. In addition, much of what will be on the test will be taken from lecture, and will not be covered in the readings.

Excuses - Extensions to an exam’s due date will be granted for religious observances provided I am informed beforehand. Extensions will also be granted for very serious emergencies (hospitalization, bereavement, etc.) provided suitable evidence is provided afterwards. Otherwise, exams will be docked one point for every day that they are late (including weekends).

Grading Scale:

<u>points</u>	<u>grade</u>
10	A
9	A-
8	B+
7	B
6	B-
5	C+
4	C
3	C-
2	D+
1	D
0	F

Reading

All readings will be available electronically on the class’s TritonEd website.

Academic Integrity

Any violations of academic integrity will be turned over to the Dean of Judicial Affairs. Details regarding what counts as cheating can be found here: academicintegrity.ucsd.edu. Consult the site or an instructor if you have any doubts or questions regarding what counts as cheating. All research papers will be run through the Turnitin service, which will determine whether the author has plagiarized from other papers or from Internet sources.

Contact

I am available at my office hours (HSS 8061) every Thursday from 2 to 3:30. If you cannot attend at that time, you should feel free to make an appointment by talking to me in person, or by contacting me by email.

Readings & Topics

This schedule is highly tentative. Any changes will be announced in class. Complete the listed readings no later than the date indicated. John Rawls's 'Theory of Justice' is abbreviated 'ToJ'. Robert Nozick's 'Anarchy, State, and Utopia' is abbreviated 'AS&U'.

PART I. John Rawls's 'Theory of Justice' and criticism

Week 1

Tue. Mar. 29 - Introduction

Thu. Mar. 32 - [no class]

Week 2

Tue. Apr. 05 - ToJ §1-5

Thu. Apr. 07 - ToJ §6-9

Week 3

Tue. Apr. 12 - ToJ §10-12, §14-17

Thu. Apr. 14 - ToJ §20-25

Week 4

Tue. Apr. 19 - ToJ §26-30

Thu. Apr. 21 - Nagel, 'Rawls on Liberalism' (sec. 1 & 2); 'Rawls on Justice'

Week 5

Tue. Apr. 26 - Scheffler, 'Rawls and Utilitarianism'

Thu. Apr. 28 - Dworkin, 'The Original Position'

Week 6

Tue. May 03 - Scanlon, 'Rawls' Theory of Justice'

Thu. May 05 - Nussbaum, 'Rawls and Feminism'

PART II. Robert Nozick's 'Anarchy, State, and Utopia' and criticism

Week 7

Tue. May 10 - AS&U, p. 3-33, 48-53; *First Test Due*

Thu. May 12 - AS&U, p. 88-119

Week 8

Tue. May 17 - AS&U, p. 149-182

Thu. May 19 - AS&U, p. 183-231

Week 9

Tue. May 24 - Arneson, 'Side Constraints, Lockean Individual Rights...'

Otsuka, 'Are Deontological Constraints Irrational?'

Thu. May 26 - Mack, 'Nozickian Arguments for the More-than-Minimal State'

Week 10

Tue. May 31 - Meadowcroft, 'Nozick's Critique of Rawls...'

Thu. June 02 - Fried, 'Does Nozick Have a Theory of Property Rights?'

Finals Week

Tue. June 07 - *Second Test Due*