

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Code / Title : HA3020 Justice

Pre-requisites : HA1002

No. of AUs. : 3

Contact Hours : 39

Course Aims

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to certain of the most important debates regarding the concept of justice in contemporary political thought. It will unfold specifically through a consideration of John Rawls' seminal 1971 text *A Theory of Justice*, and various of Rawls' most important philosophical critics. After examining Rawls' account of justice as fairness, we will examine four texts which critique Rawls from distinct theoretical orientations. Specifically, we will look at a libertarian critique (Robert Nozick), a communitarian critique (Michael Walzer), a feminist critique (Susan Moller Okin), and a realist critique (Raymond Geuss).

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Identify the key theoretical formulations regarding the issue of justice articulated by each of the philosophers studied.
2. Locate the larger philosophical trajectories or traditions within which these formulations are situated.
3. Apply this theoretical knowledge to the practical analysis of current debates regarding justice in contemporary societies.
4. Analyse and interpret complex textual material related to political science.
5. Present your opinions on various political concepts in a coherent and logical way.

Course Content

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

Week 2: Rawls: Justice as Fairness

Week 3: Rawls: The Original Position

Week 4: Rawls: Applications

Week 5: Nozick: Origins of the Minimal State

Week 6: Nozick: The State and Distributive Justice

Week 7: Nozick: Critiques

Week 8: Walzer: Complex Equality

Week 9: Walzer: Economic and Political Distributions
Week 10: Walzer: Democracy vs. Tyranny
Week 11: Okin: The Relevance of the Family
Week 12: Okin: Justice in the Domestic Sphere
Week 13: Geuss: Philosophy and Real Politics

Course Assessment

Class Participation	: 20%
Short Essay (6-8 pages)	: 30%
Final Essay (12-15 pages)	: 50%
Total	-----
	100%