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Office: Leacock 924  
Office hours: Monday 1:30-3:30

Topic: Contemporary theories of distributive justice

This seminar course is focused on post-Rawls theories of distributive justice in analytic tradition. More specifically, we will analyze (1) luck egalitarianism and relational egalitarianism, (2) axiological distributive principles – telic egalitarianism, prioritarianism, and sufficientarianism, and (3) the problem of temporal and spacial unit in distributive justice.

Main texts

Assessments
• Attendance and participation: 20pt
• Two take-home exams: 40pt x 2

Attendance and participation
The success of seminar course depends on students’ preparation, attendance, and participation. Therefore, we will take these very seriously. There will be a disproportional penalty on absences. Each student is asked to post at least 2 questions and/or points of discussion from the required readings on the course webpage at least 24 hours before each class. The quality of post will be assessed as part of attendance and participation.

Take-home exams
There will be 2 take-home exams. The first is due October 16, the second is due December 11. In each exam, you will be given 2 weeks to write a paper on one of three topics that will be given by the instructor. The paper is max 3,000 words, excluding footnotes and references. You can sue any referencing style insofar as we can identify the source.

Late submission and extensions
Late submission of take-home exam will be downgraded at a rate of 5pt per 24 hours on their final grade for the course (not 5% on grade for the take-home exam), including weekend/holiday days. Requests for extensions will be considered (but not automatically granted) only when requested before the paper is due and substantiated at the time of request by a doctor’s note documenting illness.

The University requires that the following notices appear on every syllabus:
• McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).
• In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.
Tentative Schedule
([R] indicates the required reading, available on the course webpage)

Sep 2: Contemporary political theories and philosophical concepts

Sep 12: Utilitarian equality and Rawlsian alternative
   • [R] Hirose, Ch.1.
   • [R] Scheffler, “Rawls and utilitarianism”
   • Singer, “Famine, affluence and morality”

Sep 19: Luck egalitarianism
   • [R] LR, Chs. 1 and 3.
   • Arneson, “‘Equality and equal opportunity for welfare”
   • Cohen, “On the currency of egalitarian justice”

Sep 26: Objections to luck egalitarianism
   • [R] Hirose, Ch. 2.
   • [R] LR, Ch. 4.
   • [R] Anderson, “What is the point of equality?”
   • Fleurbaey, “Egalitarian opportunities”

Oct 3: What is the point of relational egalitarianism?
   • [R] LR, Ch.7.
   • [R] Anderson, “The fundamental disagreement between luck egalitarians and relational egalitarians”
   • [R] Hirose and Segall, “Equality and political philosophy” (only the last section)
   • LR, “Luck egalitarians vs relational egalitarians”

Oct 17: Telic egalitarianism and the levelling down objection [The first take-home exam is due October 16]
   • [R] Hirose, Ch.3.
   • [R] LR, Ch.5.
   • [R] Parfit, “Equality or priority?”
   • Mason, Egalitarianism and the levelling down objection”

Oct 24: Prioritarianism
   • [R] Hirose, Ch.4.
   • [R] Otsuka and Voorhoeve, “Why it matters that some are worse off than others”
   • [R] Segall, “How useful is the separateness of persons”
   • Utilitas, 24(3), 2012

Oct 31: Sufficentarianism
   • [R] Hirose, Ch.5.
   • [R] Crisp, “Egalitarianism and compassion”
• [R] Hirose, “Axiological sufficientarianism”
• Benbaji, “The doctrine of sufficiency”
• Benbaji, “Sufficiency or priority?”

Nov 7: Temporal unit
• [R] Hirose, Ch.6.
• [R] McKerlie, “Equality and time”
• [R] McKerlie, “Justice between the young and the old”
• [R] Broome, “Separability of time (Weighing Lives, Ch.7)”

Nov 14: Spacial scope
• [R] Hirose, Ch.6.
• [R] LR, Ch. 6.
• [R] Segall, “Incas and Aliens”

Nov 21: Health equality
• [R] Hirose, Ch.7.
• [R] Daniels, Kennedy, and Kawachi, “Health and inequality, or, why justice is good for our health”
• [R] Segall, “Is health (really) special?”
• Daniels, “Individual and social responsibility for health”

Nov 28: Concluding discussion [The second take-home exam is due December 11].