

# Philosophy, Society, & Culture: Theories of Justice

Phil 11A: Culture and Ideas I

Santa Clara University • Autumn 2020

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday • 9:15am-10:20am

Distance Learning Model

**Professor:** [Dr. Justin Clardy](#)  
Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy

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**Office:** Kenna Hall 200B  
**Office Hours:** TH & F 9:00-10:00am

## 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Justice is believed to be the first virtue of social institutions. But what does it mean for a society and its social institutions to be just? Students will be introduced to and examine critical questions of justice across a variety of social contexts including—race, gender, technological, and environmental. Students will investigate these questions through interdisciplinary inquiry that includes political philosophy, social theory, history, and law. We will move frequently between the realm of abstract ideas and actual cases and case studies.

## 2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course has 8 objectives:

- To develop an ability to identify and evaluate philosophical arguments
- To develop students abilities to formulate and critique arguments orally and in writing
- To develop and practice good listening habits
- To develop a healthy hesitation when evaluating other people's perspectives
- To identify similarities and differences to social injustices in both domestic and global contexts
- To increase student exposure to historical and contemporary writings in social & political philosophy
- To increase student awareness about a variety of social injustices
- To recognize how abstract ideas can be complicated when people try to put them in to concrete practice

## 3. REQUIRED MATERIALS

Most readings for this course will be made available on Camino. Other than texts made available on Camino students will need:

- *Between the World and Me*, Ta-Nehisi Coates, ISBN: [978-0451482211](#)

#### 4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for success in the course are as follows:

- Students should check their email twice per 24 hours for announcements from the professor.
- Viewing of each asynchronous micro lecture.
- Attend every synchronous class meeting with class reading completed.
- Active participation in synchronous and asynchronous discussion activities.
- Completion of synchronous and asynchronous assignments **before or by their deadlines**.
  - Papers and assignments will be due by 3:00pm on the days that they are due.
- Read all of the assigned material for the course.

#### 5. ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

25% Participation

20% Mid-term Paper (5 pgs.)

20% 2 short application paper (2-3pgs; weeks 3 & 7)

35% Final Paper/Creative project

#### 6. WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Each student is expected to complete four papers.

- The midterm paper will be designed to evaluate your abilities to explicate philosophical arguments made in texts that we read as a class and your ability to advance your own philosophical analysis. This paper is worth 20% of your final grade for the course.
- Students will also be required to complete two short application papers in which you will describe a contemporary event (using a specific source: newspaper, article, forum discussion, etc.) and explain how material from the course applies to it. These papers are worth 10% of your final grade each.
- If chosen, the final paper will be designed to evaluate your abilities to advance your own philosophical analysis of justice around a class theme of your choice. There will be no formal presentation component for this assignment. The final paper will be worth 35% of your final grade for the course.
- If students choose to do a creative project for their final assignment, you will have to complete a 2-3 page explanation of how your creative project connects to a particular course theme or set of themes. Additionally, students will be required to present their formal projects to the class. The final project will be worth 35% of your final grade.

More detailed explanation for each paper will be distributed during the quarter.

#### 7. LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made with the professor at least 48 hours prior to the assignment's due date. Making arrangements with the professor is not the same thing as notifying the professor that an assignment will be late. Late papers are also

subject to a deduction of one-third of a letter grade for the first day and a whole letter grade for each subsequent day unless evidence of hardship is provided.

8. **PARTICIPATION**

This course encourages vigorous intellectual exchange, the expression of various viewpoints, and the ability to speak effectively and cogently. Participation includes but is not limited to in-class discussion. As a part of the participation grade, students will also, at times, be required to complete reading quizzes and discussion board posting and replies on the Camino Site.

9. **OFFICE HOURS**

I will hold office hours via zoom every Thursday and Friday from 9:00am-10:00am unless otherwise noted. If you cannot make office hours during these times, please reach out to the professor via email and ask for an appointment.

10. **CLIMATE AND HARASSMENT**

If you see or hear an incident involving things like discrimination, serious bias, or exclusion, there are many people and resources available to help our community. Belinda Guthrie is Santa Clara's university-wide coordinator for issues like these: 408-554-3043, or [bguthrie@scu.edu](mailto:bguthrie@scu.edu).

Reports may be submitted online through <https://www.scu.edu/osl/report/> or completely anonymously through EthicsPoint: <https://www.scu.edu/hr/quick-links/ethicspoint/>.

As an additional resource available to students for things like discrimination, serious bias or exclusion in your philosophy classes, department events, or office hours you can also speak with a member of the Philosophy Department's Climate Committee: Erick Jose Ramirez ([ejramirez@scu.edu](mailto:ejramirez@scu.edu)), Meilin Chinn ([mchinn@scu.edu](mailto:mchinn@scu.edu)), Luis Cheng-Guajardo ([lchengguajardo@scu.edu](mailto:lchengguajardo@scu.edu)), or Erin Bradfield ([eradfield@scu.edu](mailto:eradfield@scu.edu)). Your anonymity will be respected by the Climate Committee as much as possible.

11. **DISABILITIES ACCOMODATIONS**

If you have a documented disability for which accommodations may be required in this class, please contact the office of accessible education (Benson 1, <http://www.scu.edu/oae>, 408-554-4109) As soon as possible to discuss your needs and register for accommodations with the University. If you have already arranged accommodations through OAE, please discuss them with me during my office hours within the first 2 weeks of class. To ensure fairness and consistency, individual faculty members are required to receive verification from the office of accessible education before providing accommodations. OAE will work with students and faculty to arrange proctored exams for students whose accommodations include double time for exams and/or assistive technology. Students with approved accommodations of time and a half should talk with me as soon as possible. the office of accessible education must be contacted in advance (at least two weeks notice recommended) to schedule proctored exams or to arrange other accommodations.

# READING & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

*Changes to the schedule might be announced in class or by email, and the topics of the discussions might not track exactly with the assigned readings*

## **Week 1: Introduction and Philosophical Frameworks I (Liberty and Security)**

- Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: Introduction video
- Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Thomas Hobbes, Selections from *Leviathan*
- Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>: J.S. Mill, Selections from *On Liberty*

**\*\*SYLLABUS QUIZ DUE\*\***

## **Week 2: Philosophical Frameworks II (Equality)**

- Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: John Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”
- Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup>: John Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”
- Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>: Amartya Sen, “Equality of What”

\*Recommended- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy “Equality”

## **Week 3: The Declaration, The Idea of a University, Free Speech in the University I**

- Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>: Danielle Allen, Excerpts from “Our Declaration”

**\*\*APPLICATION PAPER 1 DUE\*\***

- Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>: Yale Woodward Report (1974)  
Robbins Report (1963)  
Benson & Boyd, “The Public University” (2015)
- Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>: Urovsky v Gilmore  
Report on the Committee of Freedom of Expression

## **Week 4: Free Speech in the University II & Racial Justice**

- Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: Indigenous Peoples Day
- Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>: Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the world and Me*
- Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>: Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the world and Me*

### **Week 5: Racial Justice**

- Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>: Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the world and Me*
- Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>: Charles Mills, “The Racial Contract”
- Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations”

**\*\*MID-TERM PAPER DUE\*\***

### **Week 6: Justice and Gender**

- Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>: Patricia Hill Collins, Selections from *Black Feminist Thought*
- Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>: J. Clardy, “I Don’t Want to be a Player No More”
- Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>: Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color”

### **Week 7: Justice and the Emotions**

- Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>: Nussbaum, “Compassion: The Basic Social Emotion”
- \*\*APPLICATION PAPER 2 DUE\*\***
- Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>: Cherry, “Love, Anger, and Racial Injustice”
- Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>: “Civic Tenderness as a Response to Child Poverty in America”

### **Week 8: Technological Justice**

- Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>: Screening *The Social Dilemma*
- Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: Gabrielle Johnson, “Algorithmic Bias: On the Implicit Biases of Social Technology”
- Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>: Gabrielle Johnson, “Algorithmic Bias: On the Implicit Biases of Social Technology”

### **Week 9: Justice and Marriage I**

Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Brake, Selections from “Minimizing Marriage”

Wednesday November 25<sup>th</sup>: THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>: THANKSGIVING

**Week 10: Justice and Marriage II**

Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>: Brake, “Do Subversive Weddings Challenge Amatonormativity?  
Polyamorous Weddings and Romantic Love Ideals

Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>: CREATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>: CREATIVE PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

**\*\*FINAL PAPER/CREATIVE WRITE UP DUE\*\***