

PHILOSOPHY 310

ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Instructor: Glen Baier

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Office Hours – Abbotsford – Monday – 11:30 - 1 pm.

Thursday 11:30- 1 pm.

Chilliwack – Wednesday 11:30- 1 pm.

Ethics and Public Policy: The course will focus on normative aspects of public policy discussion and decision-making, as understood through the application of philosophical theories. In particular, we will examine how different philosophical orientations yield competing conceptions of political realities. At the core of this examination we will find 20th century conceptions of justices. Our aim, therefore, will be the critical analysis of these views of justice and what they entail in terms of public policy.

Textbook: *Contemporary Political Philosophy: An Introduction* 2nd Edition
Will Kymlicka (Oxford, 2002) (Required)

UFV Coursepack (required)

Assignments: Students will be asked to prepare 4 essays, each essay is worth 25% of the final mark. The essays will be on assigned topics related to the material covered in the readings and in the class. Each essay will be approximately 5 to 7 typed double spaced pages (1000- 1500 words). The essays will be due in class on the assigned days listed below on the syllabus.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to refuse assignments not handed in on time. If you do not think that you will be able to complete work by the assigned date, please make an effort to contact me in advance.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is considered a serious breach of student conduct. Students should be aware that UFV has policies regarding academic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating. The policy defines plagiarism as follows:

- Plagiarism occurs when a student presents work or data as original when part, or whole, was written or composed by someone other than the student.
- Plagiarism occurs when paragraphs, phrases, sentences, or ideas within the work are taken from another source without referencing or citing the author.

When an instructor has evidence of plagiarism or cheating by a student, the instructor is entitled to assign a score of zero with the first incident, and to issue a written notice that

any further incident will result in the student being required to withdraw from the course. With any further incidents of plagiarism or cheating, the student may be required to withdraw formally from the course."

Source: UFV Draft Academic Calendar 2010/2011. Regulations, Grading and Policies Section.

http://www.ufv.ca/calendar/2010_11/General/RegulationsAndPolicies.htm#Student

SYLLABUS

1. January 10th – Introduction
2. January 17th – Utilitarianism (Kymlicka, pp. 10 - 37)
3. January 24th – Utilitarianism (Kymlicka, pp. 37- 48)
Stuart Hampshire ‘Morality and Pessimism’
4. January 31st – Liberal Equality (Kymlicka, pp. 53-75)
John Rawls ‘The Priority of Right and Ideas of the Good’
John Rawls ‘Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical’
5. February 7th - Liberal Equality (Kymlicka, pp. 75-96)
Richard Rorty ‘The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy’
Richard Lichtman ‘The Façade of Equality in Liberal Democratic Theory’
6. February 21st - Libertarianism (Kymlicka, pp. 102-159)
7. February 28th – Marxism (Kymlicka, pp. 165-201)
Richard J. Arneson ‘Marxism and Secular Faith’
Paul Gomberg – ‘Marxism and Rationality’
8. March 7th - Marxism (Continued)
9. March 14th - Communitarianism (Kymlicka, pp. 208 – 244)
Michael J. Sandel ‘The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self’
10. March 21st – Communitarianism (Kymlicka, pp 244 –272)
Amy Gutmann ‘Communitarian Critics of Liberalism’
11. March 28th - Citizenship Theory (Kymlicka, pp. 284 –319)

12. April 4th - Multiculturalism (Kymlicka, pp. 327-376)
James (Sakej) Youngblood Henderson 'The Context
of the State of Nature'

13. April 11th - Feminism (Kymlicka, pp.377 – 420)
Elizabeth Wolgast 'Wrong Rights'

Assignment Due Dates: 1st Essay – February 7th
2nd Essay – March 7th
3rd Essay- March 28th
4th Essay – April 18th