Distributive Justice: Theories and Institutions
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The course is designed to achieve a comprehensive discussion of the central problems of contemporary theories of distributive justice. Most theorists agree that all humans have equal moral status, and are entitled to be treated with equal concern and respect by the government, but there is no agreement about what treating with equal concern and respect entails. The dimensions of disagreement include the focus, content, currency, site and scope of the duties of distributive justice. Regarding focus, some theorists hold that the focus of distributive justice should be the distribution of certain privately held goods. Others claim that equal concern and respect is achieved if social and political relations have an egalitarian character, but the distribution of privately held goods has no independent moral significance. Regarding content, some theorists hold that equal concern is realized if each person has an equal share of the relevant social goods, while others claim that equal concern requires giving priority to the needs of the worst off, or making sure that everyone has enough of the relevant goods in accordance with a suitable conception of sufficiency. Regarding currency, theorists disagree about which inequalities are morally relevant from the point of view of justice: inequalities in well-being, resources, capabilities, etc. Regarding site, some theories hold that the duties of justice apply primarily to social and political institutions, while others hold that they apply equally to individuals’ personal choices. Regarding scope, some believe that the duties of justice have global scope, while others claim that their scope is restricted to co-citizens of each nation-state. Duties of justice have temporal dimensions as well: different conceptions of justice disagree about whether the proper unit of distribution is the whole lifetime of the relevant individuals, or some/all temporal parts within lives. Finally, there is no agreement about the content of our duties towards future generations, if any. The main arguments regarding the focus, content, currency, site and scope of distributive obligations will be discussed, as well as some of the issues regarding justice and time.

Course requirements: each student is required to submit two papers for this course. One is a short (5-6 pages) reaction paper discussing one of the required readings, and the other is a 12-page final paper. Students are also required to present one of the readings in class briefly (15-20 minutes max.), together with preparing some questions for the class discussion. Students are also required to participate in the seminar discussions.

Evaluation: final paper (50%), reaction paper (25%), presentation and participation (25%)

Week 1: Introduction and Basis of Moral Equality
  ■ Richard Arneson, “What, if Anything, Renders All Humans Morally Equal?,” in Dale Jamieson (ed.), Singer and His Critics (Blackwell, 1999);
  ■ Ian Carter, “Respect and the Basis of Equality,” Ethics 121 (April 2011): 538-571 (suggested);

Week 2: The Focus of Equality: Why Should We Care About Distribution?
  ■ John Rawls, A Theory of Justice (Harvard UP, 1971), ##1-5, 11-12 (pp. 3-22, 60-75);
Week 3: The Focus of Equality, cont.: Should We Care About Distribution?

Week 4: What is the Currency of Distributive Justice? Resource Equality
- Ronald Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue* (Harvard UP, 2001), Ch. 1-2;

Week 5: Currency cont.: Advantage, Capabilities
- Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue*, Ch 7 (suggested);
- Dworkin “Replies to Critics,” in Justine Burley (ed.), *Dworkin and his Critics* (Blackwell, 2004), pp. 339-350 (suggested);

Week 6: The Site of Distributive Justice

Week 7: The Principle of Distribution: Equality, Priority, Sufficiency
- Daniel Hausman, “Equality Versus Priority: A Badly Misleading Distinction” (suggested);
- John Broome, “Equality Versus Priority: A Useful Distinction” (suggested);

Week 8: The Principle of Distribution cont.
- Joseph Raz, *The Morality of Freedom* (Clarendon, 1986), Ch. 9, pp. 217-244;
- Peter Vallentyne, “Sen on Sufficiency, Priority and Equality,” in Christopher Morris (ed.), *Contemporary Philosophy in Focus* (Cambridge UP, 2010), pp. 138-169 (suggested);

Week 9: The Scope of Distributive Justice

Week 10: Scope, cont.

Week 11: Justice and Time: The Temporal Unit of Distribution

Week 12: Justice and Time: Intergenerational Justice