

Course Syllabus

Philosophy 192: Inequality

Erin Kelly

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In this course we will study a contemporary philosophical debate about which inequalities demand redress as a matter of justice. We will consider both economic and social forms of inequality rooted in such factors as: inheritance, education, discrimination, natural talents, preferences, and good or bad luck. The aim is to sort out what sorts of inequalities are incompatible with just democratic institutions and, accordingly, what the commitment to equal citizenship should amount to in a democracy.

Readings

(P) Course Packet from Gnomon Copy (348 Boston Ave.)

(B) Blackboard website <http://blackboard.tufts.edu> (readings located under “Assignments”)

Egalitarian Liberalism

Jan. 24 Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, §§1-5, 11, 24 (P)

Jan. 26 Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, §§12 (pp. 57, 62-65), 13 (pp. 65-70, 72), 17, 26, 29 (P)

Jan. 31 Nagel, *Equality and Partiality*, Chs. 7, 12 (P)

Libertarianism

Feb. 2 Hayek, “Equality, Value and Merit” (P)

Feb. 7 Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*, 150-160 (P)

Welfare vs. Resources

Feb. 9, 14 Dworkin, “What is Equality? Equality of Welfare” (B)

Feb. 16 Kymlicka, “Liberal Equality” (pp. 75-87) (P)
Dworkin, “What is Equality? Equality of Resources” (pp. 283-314) (B)

Feb. 21 Dworkin, “What is Equality? Equality of Resources” (pp. 314-345) (B)

Feb. 23 no class

Inequality of Fortune

Feb. 28 Sen, “Equality of What?” (P)
First paper due (5-6 pages)

- Mar. 2 Arneson, "Equality and Equality of Opportunity" (P)
Arneson, "Equality of Opportunity for Welfare Defended and Recanted" (B)
- Mar. 7 G. A. Cohen, "On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice" (B)
- Mar. 9 G. A. Cohen, "Equality of What? On Welfare, Goods, and Capabilities" (P)
- Mar. 14 Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?" (B)
- Mar. 16 Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?" (B)
Arneson, "Luck Egalitarianism and Prioritarianism" (B)

Equality and Responsibility

- Mar. 28 Scheffler, "Choice, Circumstance, and the Value of Equality" (B)
- Mar. 30 Roemer, "Equality and Responsibility" (B)
Scanlon, "Comments on Roemer" (B)
- Apr. 4 Schiffrin, "Egalitarianism, Choice-Sensitivity, and Accommodation" (P)
- Apr. 6 no class; **Second paper due** (5-6 pages)
- Apr. 11 Ripstein, "Equality, Luck, and Responsibility" (B)
- Apr. 13 Scanlon, "When Does Equality Matter?" (B)

Multiculturalism

- Apr. 18 Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, Ch. 8 (pp. 327-336, 348-365) (P)

International justice

- Apr. 20 Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice" (B)
- Apr. 25 Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice" (B)
J. Cohen and Sabel, "Extra Rempublicam Nulla Justitia?" (B)
- Apr. 27 J. Cohen and Sabel, "Extra Rempublicam Nulla Justitia?" (B)
- May 5 **Final paper due** (10-12 pages)

Course Requirements

Class attendance and participation	
Two shorter papers (5-6 pages)	25% each
One longer paper (10-12 pages)	50%