

Course Syllabus

Philosophy 292: Philosophy of Criminal Justice

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Fall Semester 2015

Office: Miner Hall 002

Office Hours: Th 1:30-2:30

This graduate seminar will begin by considering the relevance of contemporary work on the topic of human rights and state legitimacy to the philosophy of criminal justice. We will then study some recent philosophical work on moral responsibility, blame, excuses, and criminal punishment.

Readings: All readings are available on the course Trunk site.

Schedule of Readings:

Human Rights and the Practice of Criminal Punishment

- 9/7 Amnesty International Reports (selected)
- 9/14 John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (selections)
Joshua Cohen, "Minimalism about Human Rights"
- 9/21 Charles Beitz, *The Idea of Human Rights* (selections)
- 10/5 Allen Buchanan, *The Heart of Human Rights* (selections)
- 10/12 Victor Rios, *Punished* (selections)
- 10/19 Marie Gottschalk, *Caught* (selections)

Blame and Responsibility

- 10/26 P. Strawson, "Freedom and Resentment"
Pamela Hieronymi, "The Force and Fairness of Blame"
- 11/2 T. M. Scanlon, "Blame"
- 11/9 Jay Wallace, "Dispassionate Opprobrium: On Blame and the Reactive Sentiments."
Michelle Mason, "Blame: Taking it Seriously"

Excuses

11/16 H. L. A. Hart, "Legal Responsibility and Excuses"
David Brink, "Fairness and the Architecture of Responsibility"

11/23 Erin Kelly, "What is an Excuse?"
John Gardner, "The Gist of Excuses"

Philosophies of Criminal Punishment

11/30 C. S. Nino, "A Consensual Theory of Punishment"
T. M. Scanlon, "Punishment and the Rule of Law"
Alan H. Goldman, "Toward a New Theory of Punishment"

12/7 Victor Tadros, *The Ends of Harm* (selected chapters)

Course Requirements

Class attendance and participation
Seminar paper (20 pages)

Learning Objectives

Students completing this course will have learned:

1. How to think abstractly and concretely about the nature of criminal justice and the relationship between law and morality.
2. How to produce a cogent argument and how to express it clearly, both in writing and orally.
3. How to identify the substance and structure of an argument and evaluate it for soundness and validity.
4. How to anticipate and even welcome objections to one's views, how to apply the principle of charity to others' opinions, and how to address objections and competing views effectively and respectfully in one's writing.
5. How to read, analyze, and articulate arguments and viewpoints in philosophical texts.
6. How to develop and defend one's own position with respect to problems that have occupied moral and political philosophers.