

# PHIL 4: JUSTICE: FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

Spring 2010

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** How does the theoretical study of justice impact practice? Can philosophical theories of justice teach us something about fighting for social justice? In this class you will grapple with these questions by engaging with philosophical theories of justice and participating in organizations in the area that are working to promote social justice. This is a writing intensive course; you will be encouraged to articulate the connections you discover in engaging with justice in theory and practice through your writing. The goal of this class will be to put together an online magazine to share what you have discovered. This is a service learning course; 2-3 hours of participation in community service per week will be a required as part of the course.

**READING:** Readings will be drawn from philosophical texts as well as popular non-fiction. The required texts for this course are:

- Michael Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do? (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2009)
- William Zinsser, On Writing Well (Collins 2001)

All other readings will be available on Blackboard.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** This course will involve reading, writing, *and* service requirements. The final product of this course will involve creating a web magazine with articles that you will write to share your experiences in this class. We will set up the site and edit the articles as a group. The articles will revolve around a philosophical idea you have encountered in this class. However, instead of taking a philosophical approach to explaining these concepts, you will use your experiences from the service-learning component of this course to illuminate those philosophical issues for a general audience. You will write 3 articles, at least one of which will be selected for the final public version of our magazine.

**SERVICE GOALS:** As part of this course, you will be working with a local organization 2-3 hours a week. You should not think of the service component of this course as an 'add-on' to the course. The service component is an integral component of the course. You should come ready to share your experiences with each other and to reflect on those experiences in your writing.

**WRITING GOALS:** The writing objectives for this course are to work on your writing's accessibility, conciseness, and clarity. We will be working with a WA, who will help you work on the mechanics of your writing. We will also be reading a fair amount of non-academic writing; you should pay special attention to the writing techniques employed there, compare them to those used in academic writing, and strive to emulate the writing you find most compelling.

Paper #1 (4-6 pages)	15%
Final Paper (6-8 pages)	25%
3 Web Magazine Articles (2-3 pages)	35%
Service & Participation	25%

	READING ASSIGNMENT	WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT
01/19	Sandel, Chapter 1: Doing the Right Thing Singer, What Should a Billionaire Give – and What Should You? (NY Times Mag 2006) Zinsser, On Writing Well, Introduction	
01/26	Sandel, Chapter 2: Utilitarianism Singer, Famine, Affluence, and Morality Ian Parker, The Gift (The New Yorker, 2004)	
02/02	Sandel, Chapter 3: Do We Own Ourselves? Libertarianism Sandel, Chapter 4: Markets and Morals Anderson, Elizabeth, “Is Women’s Labor a Commodity?” Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 1-4	
02/09	Sandel, Chapter 5: What Matters is the Motive: Immanuel Kant O’Neill, Onora, “Lifeboat Earth”	Paper #1 Draft Due
02/16	Sandel, Chapter 6: The case for Equality: John Rawls Sandel, Chapter 7: Arguing Affirmative Action Gladwell, Malcolm, Selections from <u>Outliers</u> Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 5-7	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft Article #1
02/23	Sandel, Chapter 8: Who Deserves What? Aristotle Sandel, Chapter 9: What do we owe one another? Dilemmas of Loyalty MacIntyre, Is Patriotism a Virtue? Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 8-9	Paper #1 Final Draft Due
03/02	Sandel, Chapter 10: Justice and the Common Good Obama, Selections from <u>The Audacity of Hope</u> Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 10	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft Article #2
Spring Break		
03/16	Poverty and Global Justice Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 11-12	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft Article #1
03/23	Defining Human Rights & Discrimination Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 20	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft Article #3
03/30	Animal Rights Singer, Animal Liberation (Selections) Foster Wallace, David. “Consider the Lobster” Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 21	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft Article #2
04/06	Immigration Rights Carens, Joseph, “The Case for Amnesty,” (The Boston Review, 2009) Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 22	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft Article #3
04/13	Women’s Rights Nafisi, Azar, “The Veiled Threat: The Iranian Revolution’s Woman Problem” (The New Republic, 1999) Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 23	3 <sup>rd</sup> Draft of Selected Article
04/20	Just War, Humanitarianism and the Use of Force Zinsser, On Writing Well, Chapters 24	1 <sup>st</sup> Draft Paper #2
04/27	Wrap Up	Final Draft of Selected Article
May 4 <sup>th</sup> : Final Version of Site Up May 11 <sup>th</sup> : Final Papers Due		