Special Topics: Philosophy of Economic Justice

2 credits, pass-fail

Students must prepare a 1p response paper each week, write a 5pp paper in the middle of the term, write a 20pp paper at the end of the term, and come to class prepared to discuss the readings.

Some of the weeks are left open for student input in picking the readings.

It is important that everyone have the same edition of the books. I have tried to select editions that are cheap and that are available both for kindle and in paperback.

Section 1: ancient theories of justice and “the good”

Should we start with Aristotle or jump ahead to start with Smith?

Week 1: students are expected to have read over the break


   b. Plato’s Euthyphro, translated by Benjamin Jowett, available for $0.00 on amazon kindle, [http://www.amazon.com/Euthyphro-Plato-ebook/dp/B0082SSYNU/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&pid=1386709802&sr=8-1&keywords=euthyphro](http://www.amazon.com/Euthyphro-Plato-ebook/dp/B0082SSYNU/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&pid=1386709802&sr=8-1&keywords=euthyphro)

Section 2: classical economics


Week 4: Marx

   a.  Capital, **just chapter 1: the Commodity** and **chapter 26: the secret of primitive accumulation** (read this first; you should easily be able to find a copy of this book; I’m using a penguin edition that cost me $2.51 on amazon, but it’s surely in the library; http://www.amazon.com/Capital-Critique-Political-Economy-Classics-ebook/dp/B002XHNMN0/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1392214830&sr=8-2&keywords=capital)

   b.  Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, http://www.amazon.com/Economic-Philosophic-Manuscripts-1844-Karl-ebook/dp/B00CYN433G/ref=sr_1_2?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1386711273&sr=1-2&keywords=marx+economic+and+philosophic+manuscripts, **just the section on estranged labor**, which should be identified as such under any edition. The beginning should read something like “We have proceeded from the premises of political economy. We have accepted its language and its laws. We presupposed private property...”

   c.  Mill, On Liberty, chapters 1 and 4

Section 3: Modern Approaches to Justice

Week 5: Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, **just Part I (which is chapters 1-6)**, http://www.amazon.com/Anarchy-State-Utopia-Robert-Nozick-ebook/dp/B00E257T5S/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1392215261&sr=8-1&keywords=nozick

Week 6: Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, **Part II and Section III**

Week 7: Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement* (apparently not available online), Parts 1 to 3


Week 9: Sen, part 1

   a.  Commodities and Capabilities (this is out of print, so I’ll scan it)

   b.  The Idea of Justice (we’ll take two weeks on this book)
Week 10: Sen, part 2

a. The Idea of Justice

Week 11: Nussbaum, *Creating Capabilities: the Human Development Approach*

Section 4: TBD

We might look at some philosophical approaches to cognition and think about how they disrupt Sen’s emphasis on reason.