



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

John Rawls's Political Philosophy - 15318

Last update 19-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Philosophy

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dani Attas

Coordinator Email: daniel.attas@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays 13:00-14:00

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Daniel Attas

Course/Module description:

The course is intended for 2nd-3rd year students in philosophy and PPE. The aim of the course is to get to know Rawls's unique contribution to political philosophy in the 20th century in its many aspects. We shall read selected passages of Rawls from *A Theory of Justice* (1971), *Political Liberalism* (1993), *The Law of Peoples* (1999), *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (2001) and study them alongside his prominent critics.

Course/Module aims:

To acquaint the student with the main philosophical issues of John Rawls's political philosophy and the main criticism against him.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Critically discuss Rawls's central philosophical ideas.
Formulate their own position regarding Rawls's success in formulating a political theory suitable for contemporary democracies.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, seminar

Course/Module Content:

1. The Rawlsian Project: Basic Concepts
2. The Principles of Justice
3. The communitarian critique
4. The libertarian critique
5. הביקורת המתודולוגית (הרשאני)
6. הביקורת השוויונאית
7. פלורליזם ונייטרליות

8. הנמקה פומבית (Reason Public)

9. מוסדות: דמוקרטיה של בעלי קניין

10. מוסדות: קדם-חלוקתנות

11. זכויות אדם ומשפט העמים

12. צדק חלוקתי גלובאלי

13. צדק בין דורי

Required Reading:

Excerpts from:

J. Rawls, *Political Liberalism* (1993)

J. Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (1971).

J. Rawls, (2001) *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement* (2001).

J. Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (1999).

Additional Reading Material:

Nozick, R. (1974). *Anarchy, state, and utopia*. Ch. 7

Harsanyi, J. C. (1975). Can the maximin principle serve as a basis for morality? A critique of John Rawls's theory. *American political science review*, 69(2), 594-606.

Cohen, G. A. (2017). Where the action is: On the site of distributive justice. In *Theories of Justice* (pp. 205-232). Routledge.

Raz, J. (1990). Facing diversity: The case of epistemic abstinence. *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 3-46.

David Enoch, "Against public reason", *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy* 1 (2015): 112-142.

O'Neill, M., & Williamson, T. (Eds.). (2014). *Property-owning democracy: Rawls and beyond*. John Wiley & Sons.

Martin O'Neill "Power, pre-distribution and Social Justice" *Philosophy* 95, no. 1 (2020), pp. 63-91.

Martin, Rex, and David A. Reidy, eds. *Rawls's law of peoples: a realistic utopia?*. John Wiley & Sons, 2008.

Attas, D. (2009). A Trans-generational difference principle.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 90 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Additional information: