

Brief Course Outline

Course Title:	Justice	
Course Number and Section:	PHILOSOP	3810F 550
Instructor Name(s):	Ryan Robb	
Instructor Email(s):	rrobb@uwo.ca	

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

Discussions of justice occur at the locus of ethical, political, and legal theory; fairness is an ethical norm, one that many (most?) believe is and/or should be used to both structure and guide political institutions, institutions whose character is expressed in law. Not surprisingly then, the readings we engage in this course are all concerned with the extent to which existing Western political and legal institutions do and/or should manifest 'fairness'. Those readings are organized according to a distinction first introduced by Aristotle, i.e., the distinction between 'corrective' and 'distributive' justice. Contemporary discussions of corrective justice focus on 'private law', i.e., the area of law concerned with the voluntary and involuntary relationships between individuals (rather than the relations between citizens and the State), in an effort to determine how the Anglo-American Common Law tradition does and/or should secure fairness in those relations. Contemporary discussions of distributive justice, by contrast, are concerned primarily to identify the principles of fairness by which government institutions are and/or ought to be guided in their efforts to re-distribute the formal/material resources controlled by the State.

Learning Outcomes:

The primary goal of this course is to help students improve their existing abilities to think critically about the materials we engage and respond to those readings by developing well-supported arguments. The primary means by which this goal will be accomplished is two essay assignments, supplemented by in-class discussions.

The secondary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the dominant positions taken in the contemporary discussions of corrective and distributive justice. This goal will be accomplished by assessing student comprehension on three tests.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings and lecture notes will be made available on OWL Brightspace as the course proceeds.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Test #1	Monday, October 7th	10

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Essay #1	Monday, October 21st	30
Test #2	Monday, November 11th	10
Essay #2	Friday, December 6th	30
Test #3	December 2024 Exam Period	10

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Wednesday, August 28, 2024