

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 Brightspace 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 transactions 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. 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 resources controlled by the State.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

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 for this course will be made available on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Essay #1	Friday July 17th	30

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Essay #2	Friday July 24th	30
Test #1	Monday July 13th	10
Test #2	Monday July 20th	10
Test #3	Wednesday July 29th	10

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

Monday, May 11, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline

In-course Costs

\$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook's publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].