

Political Science 765

Rawls on Justice, Liberalism, and International Relations

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Class: Tues. 3:30-6:18
Office Hrs.: Wed. 2-4
2114 Derby Hall

John Rawls was the most important political philosopher of the 20th century. Yet many have failed to appreciate the inter-connectedness of Rawls's thought. In this course we will move back-and-forth between a very detailed analysis of Rawls's final account of his main concepts and arguments, and how his theories of domestic justice, political liberalism, and international relations hold together in a coherent system. Along the way, we will consider his theory of justice as it relates to work in political economy, his theory of political liberalism as it relates to political psychology, and the law of people's as it relates to contemporary thinking in international relations.

Course Requirements

There are two main course requirements:

1. Seminar presentation and seminar participation. Each member of the seminar is expected to participate each week in seminar discussion. In addition, each member of the seminar will be responsible for making two presentations designed to spark seminar discussion on an assigned topic. The presentations and seminar participation more generally count for 40% of the final course grade.
2. Final paper. One 15-20 page paper on a subject of the seminar member's choice, based on either the course readings, or an application to current research. This paper will count for 60% of the final course grade.

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at the Ohio State Book Store.

John Rawls. *Justice as Fairness*. Harvard University Press. 2001.

John Rawls. *The Law of Peoples*. Harvard University Press. 1999.

Students with disabilities should make their needs known to the instructor and seek available assistance in the first week of the quarter. For course materials in alternative formats please see Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2140 Derby Hall, 292-2880, also in the first week of the quarter.

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Class Meetings

- Week 1: Introduction
- Week 2: Justice as Fairness Part I
- Week 3: Justice as Fairness Part II
- Week 4: Justice as Fairness Part III
- Week 5: Justice as Fairness Part IV
- Week 6: Justice as Fairness Part V; The Idea of Public Reason Revisited
- Week 7: The Law of People's Parts I & II
- Week 8: The Law of People's Parts III & IV
- Week 9: Neblo "Motive Matters: Liberalism & Insincerity" [Paper drafts due.]
Naticchia "Human Right, Liberalism, & Rawls's Law of Peoples"
- Week 10: Workshop Papers [Comments on drafts due.]