Political Philosophy  
Winter Quarter, 2006

Faculty: Stephen L. Beck (Office: SemII B2119; x5488; becks@evergreen.edu)  
Tuesday 6-10 p.m., SemII A3107  
4 quarter hours

What is a fair political structure? In this course, we will be specifically concerned with the nature of justice in a society such as ours, in which we have not only the political values of equality and individual freedom but also people who exhibit great diversity in many ways — particularly, for our concerns, in their religious, metaphysical or moral commitments. We will discuss several contemporary theories of justice, and we will explore their applications to contemporary political issues.

Class Meetings will include some or all of the following activities: lectures, conceptual workshops, and text seminars.

Required Work for the program will include:
• weekly one-paragraph reading commentaries  
• full participation in the activities of each class meeting  
• three 3-page papers  
• two annotated articles drawn from the popular press

Credit will be awarded in political philosophy.

Text:
Additional readings will be placed on reserve in the library.
# Course Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to revision; I will inform you of changes in class.
Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be the primary focus of seminar discussion.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Work Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|        | philosophy and | *Hare, “Justice and Equality”  
|        | politics       | Rawls, “Utilitarianism and the Distinction Between Persons”  
| 1/16   | Utilitarianism | *Hospers, “Libertarian Manifesto”  
|        |                | *Narveson, “Contracting for Liberty”  
|        |                | Sterba, “From Liberty to Welfare”  
|        |                | Machan, “Nonexistence of Basic Welfare Rights”  
| 1/23   | Libertarian    | *Hospers, “Libertarian Manifesto”  
|        |                | *Sterba, “From Liberty to Welfare”  
|        |                | Machan, “Nonexistence of Basic Welfare Rights”  
| 1/30   | Socialism      | *Marx and Engels, “The Socialist Ideal”  
|        |                | *Nielson, “Radical Egalitarianism”  
|        |                | Nell & O’Neill, “Justice Under Socialism”  
|        |                | Nozick, “How Liberty Upsets Patterns”  
| 2/6    | Contractual    | *Kant, “The Contractual Basis for a Just Society”  
|        |                | *Rawls, “Justice as Fairness”  
|        |                | Sterba, “Rawls and a Morally Defensible Conception …”  
| 2/13   | Democracy      | *Habermas, “The Rule of Law and Democracy”  
|        |                | *Larmore, “The Foundations of Modern Democracy”  
|        |                | Benhabib, “Toward a Deliberative Model …”  
| 2/20   | Communitarian  | *Sandel, “Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism”  
|        |                | *MacIntyre, “Political and Social Structures …”  
|        |                | Aristotle, “The Nature of Justice”  
|        |                | Hampton, “The Liberals Strike Back”  
| 2/27   | Feminism       | *Mill, “The Subjection of Women”  
|        |                | *Okin, “Justice and Gender”  
| 3/6    | Postmodernism  | *Lyotard, “The Postmodern Condition”  
|        |                | *Reiman, “Postmodern Argumentation …”  
|        |                | Fraser & Nicholson, “An Encounter …”  
| 3/13   | Synthesis      | TBA  

Evaluation conferences are encouraged but not required. Evaluations will be based on your depth of understanding and progress as evident in written work, and class participation.