

**PHIL 43404/ECON 33250/POLI SCI 43640: THE JUSTICE SEMINAR (2013)**

[https://www.nd.edu/~pweithma/justice\\_seminar/](https://www.nd.edu/~pweithma/justice_seminar/)

**MW 12:30-1:45, 335 DeBartolo**

***Instructors:***

Paul Weithman

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***Course materials:***

***In Book Store***

Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard, 1999 **edition**): <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?recid=26755>

Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism* (Waveland)

Aristotle, *The Politics* (Hackett), trans. Reeve

*Complete Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858* (University of Chicago Press)

***On the Web Site (in order of use)***

Sequester and Debt Limit Readings

Rawls "Justice as Fairness: Political Not Metaphysical"

Rorty "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy"

MacIntyre, "The Privatization of Good"

Arrow "A Difficulty in the Concept of Social Welfare"

Wolff, "The Use and Abuse of Formal Theory" part 4.

Lincoln "Lyceum Address" and "Speech on Dred Scott"

MacPherson "Mudsills and Greasy Mechanics for Lincoln"

Burt, "Lincoln's Dred Scott"

Douglas, Speech of July 9, 1858

Jaffa, "Some of the Historical Background to the Lincoln--Douglas Debates"

Kahneman "A Psychological Perspective on Economics"

Rabin "Psychology and Economics"

Sunstein "Market Efficiency and Rationality"

Sunstein and Thaler "Libertarian Paternalism"

***Assignments, grades, and requirements:***

(1) Two seminar papers of 1500-1800 words: better paper 30% of final grade, worse 15%;

(2) Six 300-600 word critical responses to seminar papers, three before fall break and three after. Total 30%;

(3) Class contribution to seminar discussion (do not miss class unless your excuse is as good as you would expect the professors' to be): 15%;

(4) Oral final exam: 10%.

Because all the papers in this course are designed to contribute directly to class meetings, **LATE PAPERS WILL BE SEVERELY PENALIZED**. Seminar papers up to one day late will be penalized two full letter grades; papers later than this, and late responses, will receive no credit.

***Procedure for seminar papers and critical responses:***

Each student will write two seminar papers and six critical responses to seminar papers. All papers may be single-spaced, though they need not be.

Seminar papers are due two days before they are discussed. Papers to be discussed on Monday must be e-mailed to the instructor and the class by **noon** of the preceding Saturday; papers to be discussed on Wednesday must be e-mailed to instructors and the class by **noon** of the preceding Monday. The first seminar paper must be circulated by noon on Monday, September 2 and will be discussed September 4.

Responses should be e-mailed to the instructors and the class. They are due by **10 AM** on the day that the seminar papers to which they respond are to be discussed. **YOU MAY WRITE ONLY ONE RESPONSE IN ANY WEEK, AND MAY NOT WRITE A RESPONSE IN THE TWO WEEKS WHICH ONE OF YOUR SEMINAR PAPERS IS DISCUSSED.**

Seminar papers should focus on one important argument or claim in the reading for that day. Briefly state and then critically assess the argument or claim. Critical responses should never merely express agreement or disagreement with a seminar paper, nor discuss style or grammar, but should engage the details of the arguments. In both the seminar papers and the responses, you do not necessarily have to disagree with the point you assess, but might instead extend or apply it in a new way, or provide more or better support for it than the text itself.

Regular and informed participation in seminar discussions is required. All will be expected to have a detailed grasp of the day's readings, including the seminar papers.

***SCHEDULE***

W August 28	See "Readings for Wednesday, August 28 and Monday, September 2".
M September 2	See "Readings for Wednesday, August 28 and Monday, September 2".
W September 4	John Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> , Sections 1-4
M September 9	Rawls, sections 5-9
W September 11	Rawls, sections 10-14
M September 16	Rawls, sections 15-19
W September 18	Rawls, sections 20-25
M September 23	Rawls, sections 26-30, with special attention to sections 26 and 29
W September 25	Rawls, sections 33-35, 39-40
M September 30	Rawls, sections 60-68
W October 2	Rawls, sections 69-73
M October 7	Rawls, sections 74-77
W October 9	Rawls, sections 78-82*
M October 14	Rawls, sections 83-87
W October 16	Rawls, "Justice as Fairness: Political Not Metaphysical"; Rorty, "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy"

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\* Optional PPE dinner with [Professor James Weatherall](#).

### *Fall Break*

M October 28	Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> , Book I
W October 30	Aristotle, Book III
M November 4	Aristotle, Book VII
W November 6	MacIntyre, "The Privatization of Good" and comments
M November 11	Riker, <i>Liberalism Against Populism</i> , chapters 1,3 and 4.A-C
W November 13	Riker, chapter 4.D-J
M November 18	Arrow, "A Difficulty in the Concept of Social Welfare" Wolff, "The Use and Abuse of Formal Theory" Part 4.
W November 20	Same plus Riker, chapter 5 [NO STUDENT PAPERS]
M November 25	Riker, chapters 6,7.

### *Thanksgiving Break*

M December 2	Lincoln, Lyceum Address, January 27, 1838, speech on <i>Dred Scott</i> June 26, 1857; MacPherson, "Mudsills and Greasy Mechanics for Lincoln"; Burt, "Lincoln's Dred Scott" Riker, Ch. 8 and 9.
W December 4 <sup>†</sup>	Lincoln, "House Divided" speech, June 16, 1858; Douglas, speech accepting Democratic senatorial nomination, July 9, 1858; First Joint Debate, Ottawa, August 21, 1858 Jaffa, "Some of the Historical Background to the Lincoln--Douglas Debates"
M December 9	Kahneman "A Psychological Perspective on Economics" Rabin "Psychology and Economics" <i>Highly Recommended:</i> Angner and Loewenstein, "Behavioral Economics"  SEMINAR PAPER MUST DISCUSS RABIN
W December 11	Sunstein "Market Efficiency and Rationality" Sunstein and Thaler "Libertarian Paternalism"  SEMINAR PAPER MUST DISCUSS "Libertarian Paternalism"

Oral final exams will be scheduled during exam week.

### *Prayer before class*

"Send us O Lord Thy Holy Spirit among whose gifts are wisdom and understanding."

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<sup>†</sup> All students required to attend the lecture by [Professor John Burt](#) at 4PM; class dinner with Professor Burt at "The Mark Dine and Tap" to follow.