

Professor Jan Dowell

E-mail: jldowell@syr.edu

When: M 12:45-1:45, W 12:45-1:45

Where: 534 Hall of Languages (*masks required*)

Teaching Assistants:

Shiyu Chen

Email: schen17@syr.edu

jlieberg@syr.edu

When: MW 1:00-2:00.

2:00-3:00, T 1:00-2:00 Where: Zoom

Where: Zoom

Jared Liebergen

Email:

When: M

Course overview:

The focus for our course this semester will be one kind of ethical theory in particular: Theories of Justice. In the first third of the course, we will focus on social contract theories with special attention to John Rawls's *Theory of Justice*, widely regarded as the greatest contribution to the theory of justice in the 20th Century. In that section of the course, we will also consider critical discussions of Rawls' work, addressing the question of what, if anything, we can learn about racial justice from Rawls. The remainder of the course considers the special topic of racial justice, what it might be and what it might require. To that end, we will focus our attention on work on anti-Black injustice in the United States. In particular, we will consider issues of distributive justice, fair equality of opportunity, fair housing and segregation, the criminal justice system, and reparations.

Among the questions we will address are:

1. What is justice?
2. What makes a state just or unjust?
3. What is a just distribution of the fruits of social cooperation?
4. What is racism?
5. What is racial injustice?
6. Where do we find anti-Black injustice historically and currently in the US?
7. What is corrective justice? What are its demands?

Course Schedule: All readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Note: The reading and assignment schedule below may be subject to small changes. Changes will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to ensure that you know what the reading will be for the next class.

Justice and Equality

1. Class introduction: Justice and desert, prisoners' dilemma, social cooperation, social contract theory (8/30)
2. Ann Cudd & Seena Eftekhari, "Contractarianism", Section 1; John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, excerpts (9/1)
3. Rawls (9/8)
4. Rawls, G.A. Cohen, "Where the Action is: On the Site of Distributive Justice". (9/13) (*Rawls summary due (300-350 words)*)
5. G.A. Cohen, catch up (9/15)
6. Angela Davis, "The Meaning of Emancipation According to Black Women", (*Women, Race, and Class*, chp.5) (9/20) (*Reading Q&A (300-350 words) for class prep & hand-in, Group lecture*)
7. Charles Mills, "White Supremacy as a Sociopolitical System" (9/22)
8. Charles Mills, "White Supremacy and Racial Justice (9/27)
9. Tommie Shelby, "Race and Ethnicity, Race and Social Justice: Rawlsian Considerations" (9/29)

What is Racism?

10. Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Racisms".
(Mills, Shelby reading response due, **450-500 words**) (10/4)
11. Structural and institutional racism (10/6)
Overview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrHIQIO_bdQ
Opportunity and Redlining (John Powell):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zfs5k9CkJKM>
Reverse Redlining and Systemic Racism (John Powell):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDwjLahKKfA>
For more on opportunity mapping: <https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu>

Race and Socio-Economic Justice (Housing, Education, and Employment)

12. Joseph Stiglitz, "Markets and Inequality" (10/11)
13. Seana Shiffrin "Race, Labor, and Fair Equality of Opportunity". (10/13)
14. Elizabeth Anderson, *the Imperative of Integration*, chp. 1 (last two sections only), chp.2 (10/20)
15. Tommie Shelby "Integration, Inequality, and the Imperatives of Justice" Sections V-VIII (10/18)
16. Catch up (10/25) (Rawls vs Shiffrin or Anderson vs Shelby reading response due **(450-500 words)**)

Race and Criminal Justice: Policing, Courts, Prisons, Post-Prison

17. Policing: Charles Mills revisited, Michelle Alexander, *the New Jim Crow*, chp 2, "the Lockdown". (10/27)
18. The Courts: Alexander, *the New Jim Crow*, chapter 3, "the Color of Justice". (11/1)

19. Prisons & Post prison: Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chp. 2; Alexander (11/3)
20. Reform: Policing. Katherine Spencer, Amanda Charbonneau, and Jack Glaser, "Implicit Bias and Policing". (11/8)
21. Reform: Prisons. Angela Davis, *Are Prisons Obsolete?* Chp. 6. (11/10)
22. Catch up (11/15) (Reform: Policing, courts, prisons reading response due, **300-350 words**)

Reparations

23. Derrick Darby, "Reparations and Racial Inequality", (11/17)
24. Bernard Boxill, "A Lockean Argument for Black Reparations", (11/29)
25. Christopher Morris, "Existential Limits to the Rectification of Past Wrongs". (12/1)
26. Seana Shiffrin "Reparations for US Slavery" (12/6)
27. Catch up, possible presentations (12/8),

12/16 by 1 p.m.: Final project due (default project **1,000-1,250 word** paper).

- All papers must be uploaded to Turnitin on Blackboard by that day and time.

Course Requirements:

Participation: 10%

3 short (300-350 words) papers (reading summaries): 10%/each

2 medium (450-500 words) length papers: 15%/each

Final project (30%) (Default project is a final paper, 1,000-1,250 words)

Late papers will be penalized; papers later than two weeks past the deadline will not be accepted without evidence of serious illness.

Good philosophy paper writing advice:

<http://www1.cmc.edu/pages/faculty/AKind/Intro01s/Writing.htm>

The *University's Writing Center* also offers support for all aspects of paper writing for both native and non-native speakers. Meetings are kept confidential. More information on the center and how to make an appointment here:

<https://thecollege.syr.edu/writing-center/>

Class Rules:

The *use of cell phones* is not permitted during class.

The *use of laptops for class purposes* is permitted. If another student complains about how you are using your laptop during class or if you are found to be using it for some non-course purpose, you will be asked to turn it off.

University Policies:

Academic Integrity: See <http://academicintegrity.syr.edu>

Religious Observances: See

http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm

Note: If you plan to avail yourself of the university's policy regarding religious observances, you *must* notify Professor Dowell by the end of the second week of class, (9/10/21).

Disability Services:

If you believe you need accommodation for a disability, please see the Office of Disability Services (ODS) <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu> for an appointment to discuss your needs. ODS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations. *Since accommodations require early planning and are generally not offered retroactively, please contact the ODS (phone: 315-443-4498, location: 804 University Avenue) as soon as possible.*

Mental Health Services:

Mental health and overall well-being are significant predictors of academic success. This means that learning how to cope with stress and anxiety is an important part of your college experience. Please familiarize yourself with the range of resources offered at the Barnes Center (<https://ese.syr.edu/bewell/>) Counseling services are available 24/7, 365 days a year at 315-443-8000.