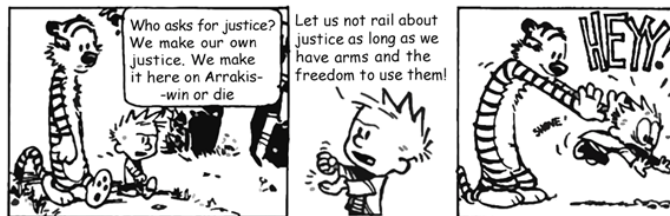


**POLS 2710**  
**Theories of Justice**  
**Fall 2022**  
**MW 2:10-3:30**

**Instructor:** Professor Christopher M. Duncan, Ph.D.  
**Office:** McGannon Hall 149  
**Email:** chris.duncan@slu.edu  
**Office Hours:** MWF 9-11 and by appointment via Zoom or In-Person  
**Phone:** 314-977-9862  
**Class Meets:** McGannon Hall 121



**Catalog Description**

This class exposes students to various ways in which political theorists have attempted to answer the question: “What is justice?” The course covers a variety of theories of justice, including utilitarian, liberal, feminist, and socialist perspectives. The course also applies theories of justice to actual political issues.

**Dignity, Ethics, and a Just Society**

This course is part of the Saint Louis University Core, an integrated intellectual experience completed by all baccalaureate students, regardless of major, program, college, school or campus. The Core offers all SLU students the same unified approach to Jesuit education guided by SLU’s institutional mission and identity and our nine undergraduate [Core Student Learning Outcomes](#) (SLOs).

<b>Dignity, Ethics, and a Just Society</b> is one of 19 Core Components. The University Core SLO(s) that this component is designed to intentionally advance are listed below:
<b>University Core Student Learning Outcomes</b>
The Core SLO(s) that this component is intentionally designed to advance are:
SLO 1: Examine their actions and vocations in dialogue with the Catholic, Jesuit tradition
SLO 3: Assess evidence and draw reasoned conclusions
SLO 7: Evaluate the extent to which social systems influence equity and reflect innate human dignity
Additionally, the Core Component-level Student Learning Outcomes are listed below:
<b>Component-level Student Learning Outcomes</b>
Students who complete this course will be able to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze the cultural-institutional conditions and causes of just and unjust social systems using such concepts as social location, relationships, power, privilege, and vulnerability</li> </ul>

- Apply such ethical concepts as human dignity, equity, well-being justice, and the common good to critically evaluate both existing social systems and proposals for social change
- Envision and articulate systemic social changes and other ways to promote flourishing, well-being, equity, justice, and the dignity of the human person

### **Learning outcomes for the Political Science Major**

1. Graduates will be able to identify the structure and operation of political systems in the U.S, across a variety of countries, and in multinational organizations.
2. Graduates will be able to distinguish among various approaches to studying political phenomena.
3. Graduates will be able to read carefully and evaluate and construct analytical arguments in clear and logical prose.
4. Graduates will be able to identify and gather information from credible primary and secondary sources.
5. Graduates will be able to design original research to test arguments and hypotheses with qualitative and/or quantitative approaches.
6. Graduates will be able to assess the effects of various social and political structures and public policies to determine which are more likely to promote equality, justice, freedom, or other values important to them.

### **Course Objectives**

The learning goals for the course include:

1. Students will be able to differentiate between classical and modern conceptions of justice in the Western tradition.
2. Students will be able to describe and articulate the central questions and issues regarding distributive justice in the context of contemporary liberal-capitalist societies.
3. Students will be able to explain and distinguish multiple paradigmatic conceptions of justice as theorized by a diverse array of representative political theorists and primary texts.
4. Students will be able to contrast the varied accounts of justice explored and evaluate their strengths and weaknesses.
5. Students will be able to critically articulate their own sense of social justice and offer any corrections to it as fostered by the classroom lectures, discussions, and readings.

### **Course Attributes**

Global Local Justice-Theory, Law, Religion and Politics, Social Science Required (A&S), Urban Poverty - Social Justice, Diversity in the US (A&S)

### **Required Texts\***

1. *A Theory of Justice* by John Rawls
2. *A Plato Reader: Eight Essential Dialogues* by Plato (edited by C.D.C Reeve)
3. *The Racial Contract* by Charles W. Mills
4. *Justice and the Politics of Difference* by Iris Marion Young
5. *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* by G.A. Cohen
6. *Liberalism and the Limits of Justice* by Michael J. Sandel

\*Other readings will be provided electronically during the semester

## Requirements

Students will be expected to attend each class session with the required readings done and be prepared and willing to participate thoughtfully in the discussions of them. Grades for the course will be determined based on the following:

(3) Exams	100 points
(1) Final Essay	<u>100 points</u>
	400 points total

## Grade Scale in Points

400-368=	A
367-360=	A-
359-348=	B+
347-328=	B
327-320=	B-
319-312=	C+
311-288=	C
387-280=	C-
279-220=	D
Below 220=	F

## Examinations

Examinations will be administered through the course's Canvas site. They will open and close at specific times and will consist of essay questions, short answer questions, and multiple choice questions.

## Civility

A course like this can give rise to strong opinions and even vigorous arguments. That is perfectly acceptable. However, each person and their opinions will be treated with respect and dignity.

The use of cell phones, computers or other electronic devices during class is prohibited except as approved for note-taking. Receiving calls, texting or other behavior that detracts from course material will not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in such behavior will be asked to leave the class and the day will be counted as an absence for the first offense. For the second offense, the person engaging in the behavior will be asked to leave and not return to class for the rest of the semester.

## Important Dates

September 5 <sup>th</sup>	No Class	Labor Day
September 28 <sup>th</sup>	No Class	University Break
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> -25 <sup>th</sup>	No Class	Thanksgiving Break

## Course Outline

### Dates

### Topic

**August 24- September 12**

**Classical Justice and Plato**

*Readings:*

- Aug. 24      *The Euthyphro; The Apology; and The Crito* (Reeve)  
Aug. 29      *The Euthyphro; The Apology; and The Crito* (Reeve)  
Aug. 31      *Plato's Republic Bks. I-III* (Reeve)  
Sept. 7       *Plato's Republic Bks. IV-VII* (Reeve)  
Sept. 12     *Plato's Republic Bks. VIII-X* (Reeve)

**September 14- October 3**

**John Rawls, Distributive Justice, and Liberalism**

*Readings:*

- Sept. 14     *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 1 and Ch. 2 [sections 10-13] (Rawls)  
Sept. 19     *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 2 [sections 11-16], & Ch. 3 [sections 20-27, 82] (Rawls)  
Sept. 21     *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 3 [sections 24-27, 29], & Chs. 4 and 5 (Rawls)  
Sept. 26     *A Theory of Justice*: Chs. 5, 6 [sections 51-55, 57, 59], & Ch. 8 (Rawls)  
Oct. 3       *A Theory of Justice*: Ch. 7 [sections 63-67], & Ch. 8 & Ch. 9 [sections 82 and 86] (Rawls)

**October 3**

**Examination One Opens at 5 p.m.**

**October 10**

**Examination One closes at 11 p.m.**

**October 5- October 17**

**Communitarian Justice**

*Readings:*

- Oct. 5       *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Introduction & Ch. 1 (Sandel)  
Oct. 10      *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Ch. 2 (Sandel)  
Oct. 12      *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Ch. 3 (Sandel)  
Oct. 17      *Liberalism & the Limits of Justice* Ch. 4 & Conclusion (Sandel)

**October 19- October 24**

**Libertarianism and Justice**

*Readings:*

- Oct. 19      *Anarchy, State and Utopia* I [selections] (Nozick)  
Oct. 24      *Anarchy, State and Utopia* II [selections] (Nozick)

**October 26- November 2                      Socialism and Justice**

*Readings:*

Oct. 26            *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* Introduction & Chs. 1-3 (Cohen)

Oct. 31            *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* Chs. 4-6 (Cohen)

Nov. 2             *Self-Ownership, Freedom, and Equality* Chs. 7-8 & 11 (Cohen)

**November 2                      Examination Two Opens at 5 p.m.**

**November 9                      Examination Two Closes at 11 p.m.**

**November 7- November 14                      Justice and Critical Race Theory**

*Readings:*

Nov. 7             *The Racial Contract* Ch. 1 (Mills)

Nov. 9             *The Racial Contract* Ch. 2 (Mills)

Nov. 14            *The Racial Contract* Ch. 3 (Mills)

**November 16- November 30                      Social Justice and Difference *contra* Distributive Justice**

*Readings:*

Nov. 16            *Justice and the Politics of Difference* Introduction & Ch. 1 (Young)

Nov. 21            *Justice and the Politics of Difference* Chs. 2-3 (Young)

Nov. 28            *Justice and the Politics of Difference* Chs. 4-5 (Young)

Nov. 30            *Justice and the Politics of Difference* Chs. 6-7 (Young)

**November 30                      Examination Three Opens at 5 p.m.**

**December 7                      Examination Three Closes at 11 p.m.**

**December 5-December 7                      Catholic Personalism and Social Justice**

*Readings:*

Dec. 5             *Personalism* Part I, chs. I-IV (Mounier)

Dec. 7             *Personalism* Part I, chs. V-VII (Mounier)

**December 7                      Final Essay Question is posted at 5 p.m.**

**December 14                      Final Essay Question is due prior to 5 p.m.**

**Academic Integrity and Honor Code**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of Saint Louis University is “the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity.” Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service through which SLU fulfills its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore

regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern. The full University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be found on the Provost's Office website at:  
[https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy\\_academic-integrity\\_6-26-2015.pdf](https://www.slu.edu/provost/policies/academic-and-course/policy_academic-integrity_6-26-2015.pdf).

### **Disability Accommodations**

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations must formally register their disability with the University. Once successfully registered, students also must notify their course instructor that they wish to use their approved accommodations in the course.

Please contact Disability Services to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact Disability Services, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [Disability\\_services@slu.edu](mailto:Disability_services@slu.edu) or by phone at 314.977.3484. Once approved, information about a student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by email from Disability Services and within the instructor's official course roster. Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one also are encouraged to contact Disability Services. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

### **Student Success Center:**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center, a one-stop shop, which assists students with academic and career related services, is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331) and the School of Nursing (Suite, 114). Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about: Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor. University-level support (e.g., tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, academic coaching, career services, and/or facets of curriculum planning) by visiting the Student Success Center or by going to [www.slu.edu/success](http://www.slu.edu/success).

### **Discrimination Policy:**

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual harassment, including sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident that involves a Title IX matter, **that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX Coordinator and share the basic facts of your experience.** This is true even if you ask the faculty member not to disclose the incident. The Title IX Coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

Anna Kratky is the Title IX Coordinator at Saint Louis University (Du Bourg Hall, room 36; [anna.kratky@slu.edu](mailto:anna.kratky@slu.edu); 314-977-3886). If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the University Counseling Center at 314-977-TALK or make an anonymous report through SLU's Integrity Hotline by calling 1-877-525-5669 or online at <https://www.lighthouse-services.com/StandardCustomURL/LHILandingPage.asp> To view SLU's policies, and for resources,

please visit the following web addresses: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you> and <https://www.slu.edu/general-counsel>.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: SLU's Title IX Policy (formerly called the Sexual Misconduct Policy) has been significantly revised to adhere to a new federal law governing Title IX that was released on May 6, 2020. Please take a moment to review the new policy and information on the following web address: <https://www.slu.edu/here4you>. Please contact the Anna Kratky, the Title IX Coordinator, with any questions or concerns.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. Any student with more than **2** unexcused absences automatically has his or her total points reduced by 10 points. All subsequent unexcused absences reduce the grade by **10 points** each time. If for some reason the nature of the student's illness or other events outside of their control prevents the student from participating as required they should contact the instructor immediately.

Class sessions will **not** be recorded and so any students missing class should consult with other students to share notes from lecture and with the instructor during office hours in order to seek clarification of have their questions answered.

### **Mandatory Syllabus Statement on Face Masks (until further notice)**

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, key safeguards like face masks have allowed SLU to safely maintain in-person learning. If public health conditions and local, state, and federal restrictions demand it, the University may require that all members of our campus community wear face masks indoors.

**Therefore, any time a University-level face mask requirement is in effect, face masks will be required in this class.** This expectation will apply to all students and instructors, unless a medical condition warrants an exemption from the face mask requirement (see below).

**When a University-wide face mask requirement is in effect**, the following will apply:

- Students who attempt to enter a classroom without wearing masks will be asked by the instructor to put on their masks prior to entry. Students who remove their masks during a class session will be asked by the instructor to resume wearing their masks.
- Students and instructors may remove their masks briefly to take a sip of water but should replace masks immediately. The consumption of food will not be permitted.
- Students who do not comply with the expectation that they wear a mask in accordance with the University-wide face mask requirement may be subject to disciplinary actions per the rules, regulations, and policies of Saint Louis University, including but not limited to those outlined in the *Student Handbook*. Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including any of the following:
  - dismissal from the course(s)
  - removal from campus housing (if applicable)
  - dismissal from the University

- To immediately protect the health and well-being of all students, instructors, and staff, instructors reserve the right to cancel or terminate any class session at which any student fails to comply with a University-wide face mask requirement.

**When a University-wide face mask requirement is not in effect**, students and instructors may choose to wear a face mask or not, as they prefer for their own individual comfort level.

### **ADA Accommodations for Face Mask Requirements**

Saint Louis University is committed to maintaining an inclusive and accessible environment. Individuals who are unable to wear a face mask due to medical reasons should contact the Office of Disability Services (students) or Human Resources (instructors) to initiate the accommodation process identified in the University's [ADA Policy](#). Inquiries or concerns may also be directed to the [Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity](#). Notification to instructors of SLU-approved ADA accommodations should be made in writing prior to the first class session in any term (or as soon thereafter as possible).

### **Mandatory Syllabus Statement on In-Person Class Attendance and Participation (until further notice)**

The health and well-being of SLU's students, staff, and faculty are critical concerns, as is the quality of our learning environments. Accordingly, the following University policy statements on in-person class attendance are designed to preserve and advance the collective health and well-being of our institutional constituencies and to create the conditions in which all students have the opportunity to learn and successfully complete their courses.

1. Students who exhibit any [potential COVID-19 symptoms](#) (those that cannot be attributed to some other medical condition the students are known to have, such as allergies, asthma, etc.) shall absent themselves from any in-person class attendance or in-person participation in any class-related activity until they have been evaluated by a qualified medical official. Students should contact the [University Student Health Center](#) for immediate assistance.
2. Students (whether exhibiting any of potential COVID-19 symptoms or not, and regardless of how they feel) who are under either an isolation or quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official must absent themselves from all in-person course activities per the stipulations of the isolation or quarantine directive.
3. Students are responsible for notifying their instructor of an absence as far in advance as possible; when advance notification is not possible, students are responsible for notifying each instructor as soon after the absence as possible. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students also are responsible for all material covered in class and must work with the instructor to complete any required work. In situations where students must be absent for an extended period of time due to COVID-19 isolation or quarantine, they also must work with the instructor to determine the best way to maintain progress in the course as they are able based on their health situation.



4. Consistent with the [University Attendance Policy](#), students may be asked to provide medical documentation when a medical condition impacts a student's ability to attend and/or participate in class for an extended period of time.
5. As a temporary amendment to the current [University Attendance Policy](#), all absences due to illness or an isolation/quarantine directive issued by a qualified health official, or due to an adverse reaction to a COVID-19 vaccine, shall be considered "Authorized" absences.