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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

The problem of justice occupies a special place in contemporary political philosophy. In the words of its most influential figure, John Rawls, "justice is the first virtue of social institutions". That view seems to be shared by a majority of authors and theories. However, there is no comparable agreement regarding what justice demands, from whom and to whom. Proponents of different theories disagree about the content of the demands of justice: does it demand equality, priority to the worst off, or merely that each person has enough of the relevant goods, according to some notion of sufficiency? They also disagree about the currency of distribution: in what dimension should people be made equal: in their welfare, capabilities, resources, or something else? Likewise, there is disagreement about the scope of the demands of justice: is it people in general who owe and are owed the duties of justice to one another? Or is it only members of the same politically organized society? The scope question has a temporal dimension as well: are our obligations to future generations identical with or different from what we owe to the appropriate subset of the members of the current generation? Another dispute concerns the kind of actors to which justice primarily applies: is it only social institutions that must discharge the demands of justice, or are the private choices of individuals equally under its application?

Applications are invited from graduate students, postdocs, young faculty in Philosophy, Political Science, Public Policy, Law and Economics, familiar with Anglo-American political theory, especially with theories of justice.



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For further academic information on the course and on eligibility criteria and funding options please visit the web site at

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