

Theories of Social Justice  
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies 493S-693S  
Spring 2016

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Office Bartlett 102A Monday 2:30-3:30 pm,  
some Tuesdays 1-2, and by appointment

**Required texts: (available at Amherst Books, corner of Main and N. Pleasant Sts., Amherst)**

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Declaration (2012, Argo Press)

Iris Young Justice and the Politics of Difference (1990, Princeton University Press)

**Optional reading:**

Michelle Alexander The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness (2011, The New Press)

Nancy Fraser Fortunes of Feminism (2013, Verso)

Charles Mills The Racial Contract (1997, Routledge)

\*There will be required reading and some optional reading for this class (marked by a \* on the syllabus) which will be available on the UMass U Drive under the user name "ferguson" (password given in class). Optional reading on UMass library reserve.

**Goals of Course and Connection to Community Service**

The course will compare and contrast theories of social justice, including libertarian (Nozick), classic liberal (Rawls), and Marxian views, and connect them with contemporary critics of social injustice, such as Charles Mills (*The Racial Contract*) and Iris Young (*Justice and the Politics of Difference*). We will apply these approaches to contemporary issues of social injustice in the US such as racism, class exploitation, sexism, heteronormativity and transphobia, and human environmental damage. We will read short selections on social injustice, including the racism of the criminal justice system (Michelle Alexander *The New Jim Crow*), global injustice due to capitalist exploitation and imperialism (Hardt and Negri), institutionalized sexism, including reproductive justice issues, LGBT discrimination and environmental injustice. The aim of the course will be to show some implications these theories and analyses have that could aid in framing public policy and social justice activism around particular issues

such as homelessness and housing, poverty, a living wage, environmental hazards, racialized and LGBT violence, and reproductive rights.

### **Additional Practicum Credits:**

Students enrolled in this seminar can also enroll in 1-2 additional practicum credits for a community service project through the WGSS program. See separate description of the requirements for the practicum

### **Seminar Course requirements**

1. **Class Participation (20%):** Students will be expected to attend the seminar, to have read the reading, and engage in class discussion and do short homework exercises, including class email posts, including links to some current events concerning social justice. **Everyone will be expected to attend and give a short report on some current event locally (a talk, panel, conference, video) that is relevant to the issue of social justice.**
2. **Class Report and Outline (20%):** Everyone will be expected to give a **class report of about 10 minutes length**, which will summarize an issue related to the reading and defend a claim and/or raise questions for class discussion. Students will sign up for class reports at the beginning of the semester. **A short outline or paper of from 1-3 pages** connected to this class report will be due at the seminar in which the class report is given. **Students in 663 will be asked to report and lead a discussion on an optional reading.**
3. **Short Papers (25%):** Students will be expected to write a thought paper of about 5-8 pages on some topic related to the syllabus readings from Jan 25-March 21. The paper can also relate to some relevant topic about social justice as it is being addressed in a local organization in a way that connects it to one of the approaches to justice discussed in the reading. **This short paper is due in class at the March 21 seminar.**
4. **Term Paper (35%):** Students will be expected to write a term paper or from 8-10 pages (10-20 for 663 students) on some theories of, and/or or issue(s) of, social justice connected to the course. This course should be a thought paper but it can also involve research from other sources in addition to the seminar reading. References, including references to online sources, should be clearly listed in a page at the end, with authors' names, dates and page numbers (if relevant) listed in parentheses in the text (e.g. Young 1990: 203). **An outline of your term paper will be due by the April 11 seminar. Term Paper deadline is Weds. May 4 by 5 pm as an email attachment sent to the instructor.**

### **Syllabus of Readings:**

- I. **Jan. 25 Introduction What is Social Justice? What are examples of Social Injustice?** Discussion of Syllabus, Class Reports & Overview to Theories

- Ideal theories of Justice vs. theories of Injustice
- Individual vs. Institutional Justice
- Justice and its relation to human rights and other goods (freedom/liberation, equality, fraternity/solidarity, community)
- National vs. Global Justice
- Issues relating to justice and injustice: such as violence (rape, war, murder, slavery), property (private, corporate, cooperative, and public property vs. the commons), gender, race and class inequalities, exploitation, discrimination, poverty, and violence

Reading:

\*Lorenz “The Emergence of Social Justice in the West” (sent by email for reading for first seminar: also on UDrive)

## **II. Mon. Feb. 1 Justice as Freedom and the Right to Property under Capitalism [Libertarianism]**

Reading:

\*Hospers “The Libertarian Manifesto” in Sterba ed.

\*Nozick selection from Anarchy, the State and Utopia

\*Lenin “The Place of Imperialism in History”, selection from Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism (pp. 148-155)

Optional:

\*Marx “So-called Primitive Accumulation”, Capital, v. 1, ch 26. **(Report)**

\*Anzaldua Borderlands/La Frontera, ch 1

Nozick “How Liberty Upsets Patterns” in Sterba ed.

Waldron “What is Private Property?” from The Right to Private Property (1988, Clarendon)

Machan “The Non-existence of Basic Welfare Rights” in Sterba ed.

## **III. Mon. Feb. 8 Justice as Fairness (Rawls) [Welfare State Liberalism, Equality of Opportunity]**

Reading:

\*Rawls “Justice as Fairness” (1985) in Sterba, ed. Justice: Alternative Political Perspectives

\*Nozick “Terms of Cooperation and the Difference Principle” from Anarchy, State and Utopia (1974, Basic Books), pp. 189-97.

\*Durand “Neo-liberalism and Globalization (from [www.globaljusticecenter.org](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org))

Optional:

\*Rank “Why Poverty and Inequality Undermine Justice in America” from Reisch, ed The Routledge International Handbook of Social Justice **(Report)**

Sandel “The Public Philosophy of Contemporary Liberalism” in Sterba ed.

**IV. Tues. Feb. 16 Justice as Freedom and Equality under Socialism**  
**[Monday class schedule]**

Reading:

- \*Marx and Engels “The Socialist Ideal” (selections from The Communist Manifesto and from Marx “Critique of the Gotha Program” in Fisk ed. Justice)
- Hardt and Negri “Subjective Figures of the Crisis”, from Declaration, ch. 1, text
- \*Ferguson “Feminist Paradigms of Solidarity and Justice”

Optional reading:

- \*Wood “The Marxian Critique of Justice” in Fisk ed. (**Report**)
- Schmitt Marx and Engels, Pt. I and II

**V. Mon. Feb 22 Justice, Oppression and Difference (Young); and LGBT Justice**

Reading:

- Young Justice and the Politics of Difference, chs. 1, 2, 6
- \*Feinberg “Transgender Liberation” in Stryker and White eds. The Transgender Studies Reader

Optional:

- \*Minter “Transsexuals and Gay Rights”

**VI. Mon. Feb. 29 Racial Justice: Institutional Racism in the US Part I**

Reading:

- \*Mills The Racial Contract “Overview”
- \*Martinez “Racism: The US Creation Myth and Its Premise Keepers”, from David Solnit, ed. Globalize Liberation
- Young “Affirmative Action and the Myth of Merit”, ch. 7 Justice and the Politics of Difference (**Report**)
- \*Younge “The Truth about Race in America”
- Te-Nehisi Coates “The Case for Reparations”  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

Optional:

- \*Alcoff “The Metaphysics of Racial Embodiment”
- Mills The Racial Contract, passim.

**VII March 7 Gender Justice**

Reading:

- \*Okin “Justice and Gender” from Sterba, ed.
- \*Fraser “After the Family Wage”, from Fraser Justice Interruptus
- \*Combahee River Collective “Black Feminist Statement”

Folbre “Defining Alternative Systems” from her blog called Care Talk  
<http://blogs.umass.edu/folbre/2016/01/15/defining-alternative-systems/>

Optional:

\*Gray, Agllias and Davies “Social Justice Feminism” (**Report**)

\*Crenshaw “Intersectionality and Identity Politics”

### **Spring Break Short Papers due March 21 after Spring Break**

#### **VIII Mon. Mar. 21 Organizing for Social Justice**

[**Guest Speakers** Michael Bewsee from Springfield Arise for Social Justice and Loretta Ross, organizer for Women of Color Reproductive Justice]

Reading:

\*Silliman, Fried, Ross and Gutierrez “Women of Color and Their Struggle for Reproductive Justice”

\*Michaelann Bewsee “How to Drive the Poor Crazy” (chapter in Collins, Ladd, Seider and Yeskel et al Class Lives )

\*Arise for Social Justice pamphlet

#### **IX. Mon. Mar. 28 U.S. Economic Justice: Class Social Justice Issues in the US**

Reading:

\*Zweig “The Working Class Majority”

\*Hollibaugh and Weiss “Queer Precarity and the Myth of Gay Affluence”

\*hooks “Feminism and Class Power” from Where We Stand: Class Matters

Ehrenreich “Dead, White and Blue”: online at:

[http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/dead\\_white\\_and\\_blue\\_the\\_great\\_die-off\\_of\\_americas\\_blue\\_20151202](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/dead_white_and_blue_the_great_die-off_of_americas_blue_20151202)

\*Reading from Class Lives (edited by Collins, Ladd, Seider and Yeskel)

Optional:

\*Singer “Housing, Homelessness and Social Justice” from Reisch, ed. (**Report**)

\*Eisenstein “Fault Lines of Race and Class”, in Eisenstein Feminism Seduced, ch 4

#### **X Mon. Apr. 4 Institutional Racism in the US Part 2**

Reading:

\*Alexander The New Jim Crow chs 1, 5

\*Davis “The Prison-Industrial Complex”

[www.blacklivesmattersyllabus.com](http://www.blacklivesmattersyllabus.com) passim, especially History of the #BlackLivesMatter with Patrisse Cullers and Damon Turner

Optional:

Garcia “Violence and Safety: A Social Justice Perspective” in Reisch ed.  
Reamer “Social Justice and Criminal Justice in Reisch ed.

### **XI Mon. Apr. 11 Environmental Justice**

**Note: Term Paper Outline Due in Class**

Reading:

- \*Kuehn “Environmental Justice” from Reisch, ed.
- \*Selections from Naomi Klein This Changes Everything
- \*Shiva “Development, Ecology and Women”

Optional:

- \*Arise for Social Justice newsletter\_ Article on environmental justice
- \*Saleh “Ecological Debt/Embodied Debt” Parts 1 and 2
- \*Via Campesina “Peasant AgroEcology for Food Sovereignty and Mother Earth”. Available at [www.viacampesina.org](http://www.viacampesina.org)

### **XII Weds. April 20 [Monday class schedule] Corporate Globalization, Poverty and Global Justice**

Reading:

- \*Young “Responsibility for Justice”
- \*Pogge “Eradicating Systemic Poverty: Brief for a Global Resources Dividend” World Poverty and Human Rights (2002, Polity Press), pp. 196-216.
- \*Fraser “Reframing Justice in a Globalizing World” from Fortunes of Feminism
- \*Midnight Notes Collective “The New Enclosures: Planetary Class Struggle”, from Solnit, ed. Globalize Liberation.
- \*Commoner “Population and Poverty” in Fisk,ed.

Optional:

- Barry “Intergenerational Justice in Energy Policy” in Fisk, ed.
- Durand “Globalization and Social Justice”, (online at [www.globaljusticecenter.org](http://www.globaljusticecenter.org))

### **XIII. Monday. April 25 Globalization from Below: The Solidarity Economy, Alternative Visions and Social Justice Movements**

Reading:

- Hardt and Negri Declaration, text, ch 2, 3
- \*Bello “Global Capitalism vs Global Community” from Solnit ed. Globalize Liberation!
- \*Esteves: “Decolonizing Livelihoods, Decolonizing the Will: The Solidarity Economy as a Paradigm for Social Justice in Latin America”, Reisch ed.
- \*RIPESS “Global Vision”
- Alperovitz “Another World is Possible” (Mother Jones, Jan/Feb. 2006 issue)  
[http://www.garalperovitz.com/another\\_world.pdf](http://www.garalperovitz.com/another_world.pdf)

Optional:

\*Zapatistas “Sixth Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle”, Parts I and II, cf.

[www.chiapas.indymedia.org](http://www.chiapas.indymedia.org)

Luis Razeto (in Spanish) cf. [www.luisrazeto.net](http://www.luisrazeto.net) Various articles on democracy and the solidarity economy

**Final Paper Due Weds. May 4**