

Social Justice: Global Stakes, Today's Context

Professor Florent Jakob
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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the issues and challenges of social justice. After explaining the main theoretical foundations of this subject, we will thematize the different domains in which there is conflict and the growing importance of social justice issues today (e.g. wealth inequalities, gender issues, racial discrimination, climate justice...). We seek to do so by elaborating the global, environmental, and historical context of the emergence of these issues, demands, and conflictualities (thus, for example, the transformation of social relations, as well as the re-evaluation of the past for today's societies).

Learning Objectives

- To master the analytical reading of texts, both orally and in writing, focusing on key passages.
- To learn to construct the points of conflict in the present and to consider them from several perspectives, emphasizing socio-political contexts and real stakes.
- To diagnose the problematic characters of texts and arguments by respecting the respective points of view of all thinkers.
- To demonstrate the specificities of the struggle for social justice in the French context and in the political and intellectual theater of Paris.

Course Schedule

Introduction :

1) The demand for justice - some historical and theoretical milestones.

(In particular, based on :

N. Fraser, What is Social Justice? (Introduction and chapter 1. "From Redistribution to Recognition, pp.5-42)

M. Foucault, Leçons sur la volonté de savoir, Paris, Le Seuil, first session

2) The formal questions of justice

J. Rawls and J. Habermas, Débat sur la justice politique, ed. du Cerf, Paris

(From "Rawlsian public reason and deliberative democracy" C. Girard, Raisons politiques, 2009 /34, pp.73-99)

Also based on C. Perelman, *Justice et Raison*, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 1963)

Trends and Contemporary Stakes :

3) Social Justice today: the evolution of global inequalities and the question of work and its wealth.

Amartya Sen, *The Idea of Justice*, Part III, ch.11 and 12, "Lives, Freedoms and Capabilities" and "Capabilities and Resources".

A. Cukier, *Democratic Criticism of Work*, p.145-164

Guest: Anne Kupiec, Sociologist, University of Paris-Diderot, Laboratory of Inequalities.

4) The stakes of Climate Justice (from, for example, WWF vs. the "Pygmies", Cameroon, Nigeria)

A. Gosh, *Le grand dérangement*, Wildproject, 2021, pp.18-45

(with M. Bourban, *Penser la justice climatique*, PUF, 2018, Introduction pp.13-22,)

5) Justice and feminism, gender equality; justice and gender issues

bell hooks, *The Will to Change*, pp.38-55

Also "Martha Nussbaum: Women and Human Development," article by P. Ansay,

<https://www.revuepolitique.be/martha-nussbaum-femmes-et-developpement-humain/>

(see also *Sex and Social Justice*, M. Nussbaum)

6) Justice and the past, the challenges of transitional justice (reconciliation / truth; reparations; historical discrimination)

Kora Andrieu, " Afrique du Sud : La réconciliation au prix de la justice ? ", in *Les cahiers de la justice*, 2010, n°3, pp. 99-107 (and cf. Introduction to *La justice transitionnelle*, Paris, 2012)

(and Jacques Derrida, "Versöhnung, Ubuntu, Pardon : Quel genre?" in *Le genre humain*, 2004/2, pp.111-156)

7) Justice and death (dignity and right to die; death penalty, abolitionism, sovereign inheritance...)

Luigi Delia, "Enlightenment on the universal abolition of the death penalty: Derrida reading Beccaria and Kant", *Rue Descartes*, 2018/1, pp. 85-101

Visiting Paris from the perspective of a migration anthropologist, Carolina Boe Sanchez, Paris V.

8) Justice and Violence, Justice and the State (the state of exception vs. the state of law, the issues of terrorism...

W. Benjamin, Critique of Violence, full text, (for example Allia, 2019)

M. Delmas-Marty, " Liberté et sûreté, les mutations de l'Etat de droit ", Revue de Synthèse, 2009, 130/3, pp.465-491

9) Justice and migration in a global context

P-A Rosenthal, " Migrations, souveraineté, droit sociaux. Protéger et expulser les étrangers en Europe du XIXe siècle à nos jours ", Revue des Annales, 2011/2, pp. 335-373

Visit : Association des Travailleurs Maghrébins de France (ATMF, rue Affre, quartier de la Goutte d'Or, Paris XVIIIe)

10) Justice and non-humans, justice and food

C. Pelluchon, Manifeste animaliste , Paris, 2021 (and perhaps Réparons le monde)

(cf. also : J. Derrida, L'animal que donc je suis)

11) A general conclusion on the issues of justice (global, social, historical) today. (or a session on Social Justice and the Right to the City)

12) Final exam - 3 hours (a few questions and an essay)

Assessment and Attendance:

A paper on the text that will have convinced you the most (it can be related or compared with another text) or a paper on a conflicting example, problematic of contemporary justice. 40% of the final grade.

A final exam. 30% of the final grade.

A participation grade (short written response, constructive and respectful participation in the debate, presentations of the chosen passage to the class). 30% of the final grade.

Your participation and attendance are essential for this course to take shape. Be on time and be prepared to share your observations, analyses, and experiences.

If you are absent, you must provide an official document to justify your absence (a medical certificate, for example). For two unjustified absences, your final grade will be lowered by one point (A 14/20 will become a 13/20; A 15/20 will become a 14/20.) Three unexcused absences will result in a 0/20 for the course. (See Academic Guidelines)

Readings:

Each session involves reading selected excerpts, chapters, from the texts mentioned.

Bibliography :

Andrieu, K., *La justice transitionnelle*
Aristote, *Ethique à Nicomaque*
Benjamin, W., « Critique de la violence »
M. Bourban, *Penser la justice climatique*
Cukier, A., *Critique démocratique du travail*
Delmas-Marty, M. « Liberté et sûreté. Les mutations de l'Etat de droit »
Dejours, C., *Souffrance en France*
Travail vivant, II.
Derrida, J., *L'animal que donc je suis*
La peine de mort I (séminaire)
« *Versöhnung, ubuntu*, pardon : quel genre ? »
Foucault, M. *Leçons sur la volonté de savoir*,
Surveiller et Punir
Fraser, N., *Qu'est-ce que la justice sociale ?*
Habermas, J. / Rawls, J., *Débat sur la justice politique*
Honneth, Axel, « Intégrité et mépris : Principes d'une morale de la reconnaissance »
Nussbaum, M., *Sex and Social Justice*
Perelman, C., *Justice et Raison*
Pelluchon, C., *Réparons le monde*
Manifeste animaliste
Rawls, *Théorie de la justice*
Sen, A., *L'idée de justice*
(à compléter)

Film :

Forgiven, Roland Joffé, 2022

