

Philosophy 445: Social and Political Philosophy—Equality, Spring, 2009

Professor: Larry Temkin

Heldrich Science Building and Annex (HSB) 204

Monday and Wednesday 2:15-3:35

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Office Hours: Wed. 3:45-4:45, and by appt.

### Tentative Syllabus

Note: the information on this syllabus is subject to change. Variations in assignments, grading practices, etc. will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to pay attention to announced changes, or to learn of any announced changes on days where you miss part or all of a class. No excuses will be accepted for a failure to understand your class responsibilities.

### Readings:

- E -- Equality Selected Readings, ed. Pojman and Westmoreland
- I -- Inequality, Larry Temkin
- SV -- Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality, Ronald Dworkin
- CWS -- Class Website

E and SV should be available at the Douglas campus book store (the Co-op, next to the Philosophy Department). To save you money, I bought copies of I directly from OUP at the author's discount, and will be selling them to you directly at the full discounted price. CWS can be found from the Philosophy Department Website. Hopefully, all of the readings will be available via the website or texts, but it is possible a few readings will need to be distributed in class. If so, you will need to pay for the copying cost of those readings.

You must have a copy of each of the readings, including any handouts. Be sure to note well in advance which readings you do not already have, so you can leave sufficient time to track them down and make copies. Note: the readings in this course are often long and generally difficult. This should not be surprising. After all, we only meet twice a week, and it is an upper level course in philosophy! I strongly urge that you do not leave your reading till the day of, or night before, class, and that you try to read selections (at least) twice.

### Required Work:

This will depend partly on class preferences. There will be approximately 20-25 pages of paper writing for this class. Whether this will be in the form of one long paper, two mid-size papers, or several "shorter" papers and a longer paper will be determined later. Your grade will depend mainly on your performance on these papers. However, you are expected to prepare for, and constructively participate during, class discussions. You may also be required to lead discussion on one or more occasions, perhaps singly, or perhaps in

conjunction with others. In addition, there will be homework assignments which, if not turned in, will seriously affect your grade. Regular attendance is required. Abysmal attendance (missing eight or more classes) is automatic grounds for failure, and poor attendance will result in a lower grade.

If your grade is borderline, your non-paper participation and contributions will break the tie. In exceptional cases, such factors may raise or lower your grade by half a grade or so. In very exceptional cases, someone who has done really poorly on his or her papers may be able to raise his or her grade by a full grade with truly exceptional participation and contributions in other areas. Details of all this, and my grading policies, will be explained during class and, as noted above, it is your responsibility to make sure you fully understand them.

If you have any questions about any of this, ASK ME!!! Don't wait until your final grade comes in to ask me if there is anything you can do to improve your grade (there won't be at that point!), or to tell me that you didn't understand what you could do to improve your performance or positively affect your grade.

I fully expect this to be a TERRIFIC class. I see no reason why it should not be one of the most interesting, important, and enjoyable classes you take. Have fun, and learn lots. L.T.

SCHEDULE (like everything else, subject to change):

Jan.	W.	21	Scintillating Introduction to get you salivating about the class.
I. Against Equality			
	M.	26	E 30 and E11, Kurt Vonnegut: "Harrison Bergeron" and J.R. Lucas: "Against Equality"
	W.	28	E 10 and E 17, Robert Nozick: "Justice Does Not Imply Equality" and "Life is Not a Race"
Feb.	M.	2	E 26, Harry Frankfurt: "Equality as a Moral Ideal"
	W.	4	CWS, Roger Crisp, "Equality, Priority, and Compassion," <u>Ethics</u> 113, 2003
	M.	9	OFF
	W.	11	CWS, Susan Hurley, "Luck and Equality," Supplement to the Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society 75, no. 1, July 2001, pp. 51-72
	Th.	13	Special Event. Peter Railton. Philosophy Department Seminar Room, 1:10-4:10 p.m.
	M.	16	CWS, Derek Parfit, "Equality or Priority"

II. What Should Egalitarian's Care About? And a Partial Defense of One Kind of Egalitarianism.

- W. 18 CWS, Elizabeth Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?" Ethics 109 (1999), pp. 287-337
- Th. 19 Special Event. Peter Railton. Philosophy Department Seminar Room, 1:10-4:10 p.m.
- M. 23 CWS, Temkin, introduction and part one of "Inequality: A Complex, Individualistic, and Comparative Notion" Philosophical Issues 11, Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy, 2001, pp. 327-339 AND Temkin, "Egalitarianism Defended," Ethics 113, 2003
- W. 25 CWS, Temkin: "Equality, Priority, and the Levelling Down Objection" AND excerpt from "Equality, Priority, or What?" Economics and Philosophy 19, 2003, pp. 61, 68-71

### III. Equality of What?

- March M. 2 E 14, John Schaar, "Equality of Opportunity and Beyond" AND E 23, Richard Arneson, "Equality and Equal Opportunity for Welfare"
- W. 4 CWS, G.A. Cohen, "On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice", Ethics 99 (1989), pp. 906-44, esp. secs. I, IV, and V
- M. 9 SV, Ronald Dworkin, intro and chapter 1, pp. 1-64 (focusing on pp. 11-16 and 48-59) 65-83, 109-119
- W. 11 SV, Dworkin, ch. 2, pp 65-83 and 109-119
- M. 16 Spring Recess!!!
- W. 18 Spring Recess!!!
- M. 23 SV, Dworkin, ch. 2, pp. 73-109 (REPEATING 10 key pages)
- W. 25 SV, Dworkin, ch. 9, pp. 320-350
- Th. 26 Special Event. Derek Parfit. Philosophy Department Seminar Room, 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- M. 30 CWS, Kasper Lippert-Rasmussen, "Egalitarianism, Option Luck, and Responsibility", Ethics 111 (2001), pp. 548-579
- April W. 1 CWS, Amartya Sen, "Well-being, Agency, and Freedom: The Dewey Lectures" First Half
- M. 6 Special Event. Derek Parfit. Philosophy Department Seminar Room, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (NO regular class that day.)
- W. 8 CWS, Amartya Sen, The Dewey Lectures, Second Half

### IV. Further Issues in Understanding and Measuring Equality

- M. 13 I, Temkin, chs. 1 AND 2, "Introduction" and "Inequality: A Complex Notion" pp. 3-52.
- W. 15 I, Temkin, ch. 7 "Variations in Population Size" pp. 191-231

- M. 20 I, Temkin, ch. 8 "Between Whom, or What, Does Inequality Obtain?" pp. 232-244
- W. 22 CWS, Temkin, "Justice, Equality, Fairness, Desert, Rights, Free Will, Responsibility, and Luck," part 2, pp. 16-38 (forthcoming OUP)
- M. 27 Special Event. Derek Parfit. Philosophy Department Seminar Room, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (NO regular class that day.)
- W. 29 CWS, Temkin, Introduction and Implications of "Equality and the Human Condition," *Theoria, A Journal of Social and Political Theory* (South Africa) 92, Dec. 1998, pp. 15-16 and 26-45 AND section E of "Inequality: A Complex, Individualistic, and Comparative Notion," *Philosophical Issues* 11, Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy, 2001, pp. 350-351
- May M. 4 Last Day! I, Temkin, ch. 10, "Conclusion"