

POL 485/2027: Social Justice

Instructor: Margaret Kohn

Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00

Location: LA 212

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-2:30 (SS 3118)

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“Liberty, Equality, Fraternity” was the motto of the French and Haitian Revolutions and the slogan was officially endorsed by the French state during the Third Republic. The discipline of political theory, however, has focused on liberty and equality while largely ignoring fraternity. The intellectuals of the Third Republic translated the ideal of fraternity into the language of solidarity and placed it at the center of their political ideology. Solidarity could be understood as a way to manage the tension between quality and freedom. This course focuses on three related concepts: solidarity, social justice, and social theory. The readings build on the critique of ideal theory and explore the ways that social theory helps us think about politics in distinctive and useful ways. We will read books and articles that focus on the concept of solidarity as well texts that take a social theoretic approach to justice.

Books that I have ordered at the University of Toronto bookstore:

- Joan Tronto, *Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care*.
- Avery Kolers, *A Moral Theory of Solidarity*
- Gar Alperovitz, *Unjust Deserts: How the Rich Are Taking Our Common Inheritance*.
- Andrew Mason, *Community, Solidarity and Belonging*

Additional book to be purchased:

- Sally Scholz, *Political Solidarity* (Penn State Press, 2008)

Course Requirements: This is a research seminar. All students are asked to complete a major paper. In addition, all participants must complete 5 short response papers.

Response papers (25%). If the reading is very challenging, you may summarize and explain the text, but usually you should pose some critical questions and challenges.

- Length: 1-2 pages, around 600 words
- Submission: On Blackboard by 11 pm on Monday night

Participation: (15%): This course is based on a seminar format therefore all students are expected to actively listen and to contribute to class discussions. The best way to prepare for class is to read the assigned material carefully and to take notes. There may also be opportunities to give short presentations in class or to lead the discussion. Attendance is very important. If you miss class or want to supplement

your contribution to class discussion, you may submit an extra response paper. This must be submitted BEFORE the next week's class.

Research Paper (50%); Proposal (5%) and Presentation (5%):

- Length (12 pages for undergraduates, 15-20 pages for graduate students)
- Deadline: Proposal March 7; Paper, April 5
- Presentations will take place during the last two weeks of class

Schedule of Readings: This is a new class that is related to my current research. As my own knowledge of the material grows, I may make minor adjustments in the assigned readings. These will be announced in class and also updated on the syllabus on Blackboard.

Week One (January 10): Introduction

Week: Two: Social Imaginaries

Charles Taylor, "Irreducibly Social Goods" in *Philosophical Arguments* (Harvard University Press, 1997).

Charles Taylor, "Modern social imaginaries," *Public Culture* (2002)14: 91–124.

Recommended: Cornelius Castoriadis, chapter 3 "The Institution and the Imaginary: A First Approach" in *The Imaginary Institution of Society* (MIT)

Week 3: Political Solidarity

Sally J. Scholz, *Political Solidarity* (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2008), pp. 1-112.

Tommie Shelby, "Foundations of Black Solidarity: Collective Identity or Common Oppression?," *Ethics* 112 (January 2002): 231-266.

Week Four: A Moral Theory of Solidarity

Avery Kolers,

- *A Moral Theory of Solidarity* (Oxford University Press, 2016): intro and chapter 4 ("Autonomy and Deference") (everyone)
- "Solidarity as Environmental Justice in Brownfields Remediation," (manuscript, on Blackboard)
- Presentations: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Week Five: Stages of solidarity

William Rehg, "Solidarity and the Common Good: An Analytic Framework." *Journal of Social Philosophy* 38, no. 1 (2007): 7–21.

Jurgen Habermas,

 "On Social Identity," *Telos* (1974)

 "Democracy, Solidarity and the European Crisis" in *Roadmap to a Social Europe* (2013)

Hauke Brunkhorst, "The Stages of Solidarity" in *Solidarity* (MIT Press)

Week 6: Social property

Philippe Van Parijs, "Why Surfers Should Be Fed: The Liberal Case for an Unconditional Basic Income." *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, 1991, 101–131.

Gar Alperovitz, *Unjust Deserts: How the Rich Are Taking Our Common Inheritance*. New York: New Press, 2008. Introduction and 75-177.

Week 7: Community

Andrew Mason, *Community, Solidarity and Belonging* (Cambridge University Press 2000): Chapters 1 and 2 (everyone)

Presentations: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Week 8: Nationalism, Cosmopolitanism, and Solidarity

Jeff Spinner-Halev, "Democracy, Solidarity and Post-Nationalism." *Political Studies* 56, no. 3 (2008): 604–628.

Jacob Levy, "Against Fraternity," in Will Banting & Keith Kymlicka, eds., *The Strains of Commitment: The Political Sources of Solidarity in Diverse Societies*, OUP, 2017.

Craig J. Calhoun, "Imagining Solidarity: Cosmopolitanism, Constitutional Patriotism, and the Public Sphere," *Public Culture* 14.1 (2002) 147-171

Week 9: Care Ethics

Joan Tronto, *Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care*. (Routledge, 1993)

Week 10: Sites of Solidarity: Education, Public Space, Religion

Ash Amin, "Collective Culture and Urban Public Space," *City* (2008).

Sigal Ben-Porath, "Education for Shared Fate Citizenship," in eds. Danielle Allen and Robert Reich *Education, Justice, and Democracy* (University of Chicago Press 2013).

Hauke Brunkhorst, "Globalizing Solidarity: The Destiny of Democratic Solidarity in the Times of Global Capitalism, Global Religion, and the Global Public," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 38 (2007), 93-111.

Week 11: Transnational Solidarity

Carol C. Gould, "Transnational solidarities," *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 38 (2007), 148–164.

Presentations

Week 12: Presentations continued

Plagiarism: Any case of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Academic Integrity. More information about plagiarism can be found at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Blackboard: Please check Blackboard regularly for updates to the syllabus, announcements, etc. To access a Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the **POL 485/2027** course website (please look for the combined grad /undergraduate course number).

Policy on the use of electronic devices: Please do not use your laptop to access the web. A successful seminar requires that all participants actively listen to each other's contributions without distractions. Laptops may be used during the lecture part of class to take notes or to look for textual evidence in the assigned readings.