

MINI SYLLABUS

Instructor:
Juliana Uhuru Bidadanure,
Stanford University
designed in 2016

Egalitarianism and Anti-egalitarianism

Week 1 – Arguing for and Against Equality

- Introduction to ethics and political philosophy
- Introduction to normative and descriptive approaches
- Methods: How do we argue for equality?

Tuesday:

*Kate Pickett and Richard Wilkinson (2010) *The Spirit Level: Part I*

Thursday:

*Barry, Brian (2005) *Why Social Justice Matters?: Part I*, pp 3-34.

Week 2 – The Concepts of Equality

- What do we mean by equality?
- What other concepts relate to equality?

Tuesday:

*Young, Iris Marion (1990), *Justice and the Politics of Difference: Ch2*

Thursday:

*TM Scanlon (unpublished) "When does Equality Matter?"

Week 3 – Rousseau: The state of Nature and The social contract

- Using the state of nature to argue for and against equality
- Rousseau, Locke and Hobbes on the state of nature
- From the state of nature to civil society; from natural equality to civil equality
- Abstract equality in historical and political context

Tuesday:

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1754) *The Second Discourse: Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality Among Mankind.*

Thursday:

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1762), *The Social Contract*: Books I & II.

Buck-Morss, Susan (2000) "Hegel and Haiti." *Critical Inquiry* 26: 821-65.

Week 4 – Slavery and abolitionism

- The institutionalization of inequality through slavery
- Resisting slavery
- Religion, testimonies and argumentation as tools of resistance.

Tuesday:

* Frederick Douglass (1845) *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave*: Chapters I-IX.

*(1685) *Le Code Noir*.

Tuesday:

* Ottobah Cugoana (1787) *Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil and Wicked Traffic of the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species*, pages 1-59.

Eric L. McKittrick. *Slavery Defended: The views of the Old South*.

Week 5 – Anti-egalitarian science: 18th and 19th century racialism

- Introduction to 18th and 19th century pseudo-scientific racialism
- Science and inequality: the attempt to ground racism and sexism on science

Tuesday:

* Anténor Firmin (1885) *The Equality of the Human Races* - Chapter 1 & Chapter 4 (you can skip sections 5 and 6 if you are pressed with time).

* Gould, Stephen Jay (1981) *The Mismeasure of Man*. London: Norton & Company - Chapter 3.

Arthur de Gobineau (1853–1855) *Essay on the Inequality of the Human Races* - Chapters 4 & 5.

Thursday:

* Gould, Stephen Jay (1981) *The Mismeasure of Man*. London: Norton & Company - Introduction & Conclusion

* Schiebinger, Londa (1993) *Nature's Body. Sexual Politics and the Making of Modern Science* - Introduction and Chapter 4.

Week 6 – Gender, Sex and Equality

- Using the conceptual tools and the critical knowledge developed in previous classes to think about gender inequalities
- What does equality between men and women mean?
- Introduction to intersectionality.

Tuesday:

*Mary Wollstonecraft (1792) *A vindication of the rights of woman* - Chapters I, II & III.

*John Stuart Mill (1869) *The Subjection of Women* - Chapter I.

Thursday:

*Ann Oakley (2005) The difference between sex and gender. In *The Ann Oakley reader* - pp.7-20.

*Kimberly Crenshaw (1991). Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color.

Week 7 – Equality through socialism and communism

- What are socialism and communism? What differentiates them?
- The concepts of socialism: exploitation, alienation, historical materialism, capital
- African socialism: between economic equality and anti-colonialism
- Universalism and colonialism; Socialism and anti-colonialism

Tuesday:

*Marx and Engels (1848) *Communist Manifesto*.

*Friedrich Hayek (1944) *The Road to Serfdom* (condensed version).

Thursday:

*Léopold Sédar Senghor (1964) *On African Socialism* - pp. 3-6, 67-103.

*Julius Nyerere *Ujamaa: Essays on Socialism - Chapters 1 and 3*

Week 8 – Rawls's complex egalitarianism

- Introduction to one of the most influential thinkers for contemporary political philosophy
- The method of reflective equilibrium
- The original position, the veil of ignorance, maximin and equality

Tuesday:

*John Rawls (1971) *A Theory of Justice - Part 1*

Robert Nozick (1974) *Anarchy, State, and Utopia - Ch 7*.

Thursday:

*Norman Daniels (2003) *Reflective Equilibrium*.

Week 9 - Post-Rawlsian egalitarianism: Equality of What?

- What is the currency of egalitarian justice? (Opportunities, resources, capabilities, welfare?)
- Argumentative methods in contemporary philosophy: hypothetical examples, idealizations, non-ideal theory
- Should personal choices and individual responsibility be central to egalitarian theorizing?
- Is enough enough?

Tuesday:

*Amartya Sen (1979) "Equality of What?"

*D. Axelsen and L. Nielsen (2015) "Sufficiency as Freedom from Duress"

G. A. Cohen (1989) "On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice".

Thursday:

*Nancy Fraser (1997) "From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Postsocialist' Age," in *Justice Interruptus*.

*Elizabeth Anderson (1999) "What is the Point of Equality?".

Week 10 – Multiple inequalities: gender, sexual orientation, race, class, disability, and age.

- Conclusions: what have we learned about egalitarian and anti-egalitarian discourse?
- The methods of normative argumentation
- Multi-form inequalities.