Justice and Civil Society

Dr. Javier Hidalgo
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Class Time & Room:
• Section 1: 12pm-1:15pm Tuesday and Thursday in Jepson 107
• Section 2: 1:30-2:45pm Tuesday and Thursday in Jepson 108.

Office Hours: I post a sign-up sheet for my office hours on blackboard. Please sign up for office hours there.

Course Description:

Justice and Civil Society explores the meaning and practice of justice in contemporary society and gives students an opportunity to apply what they have learned. Students read about and debate theories of justice and study poverty and other socio-economic problems and then serve populations in need by volunteering in nonprofit organizations throughout Greater Richmond.

Policies:
1. Please do not use your laptop, ipad, or phone during class.
2. I can only offer make up exams in cases of extreme duress like documented medical emergencies and/or religious observance.
3. If you have a documented disability and would like some form of academic accommodation, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss whether such accommodation can be provided.

Course Requirements:

1. Two Papers (30%)
   a. There will be two papers for this class. The first paper will be about 1500-2000 words long and will be worth 10% of your grade. The second paper will be about 2000-2500 words long and will be worth 20% of your final grade. I will give you suggested prompts for these papers several weeks before they are due. But you are free to develop your own prompt.
   b. Please email me your essay at hidalgoj@gmail.com by 5pm on the day that the essay is due. If you need an extension, you need to request one at least 24 hours before the paper is due. Computer problems are not a valid excuse for late papers (for this reason, I strongly recommend that you use google drive or drop box to save your work as you write).
   c. If you turn in your paper late, I will drop it by 1/3 of a grade. I will then continue to drop your grade by 1/3 for every two days that pass.
2. Response Papers (15%)
   a. A response paper is due most weeks. I will divide the class into two groups: A and B. If you are in group A, you will normally write your response papers on the readings for Tuesday. If you are in group B, you will normally write your response papers on the readings for Thursday. Exceptions are noted on the syllabus below.
   b. For each response paper, I will give you a prompt that you need to address. You can find the prompts in the weekly reading folders on blackboard.
   c. You must turn in your response papers to me before class.

3. Class Attendance and Participation (15%)
   a. Class attendance and participation are mandatory. You must do the readings and come to class prepared to discuss these readings.
   b. Students will be penalized by one percentage point from their final grade for each unexcused absence after one absence. In other words, your participation grade will take a hit each time that you are absent after your first absence from the class.
   c. In this class we will discuss several sensitive topics, and you may feel uncomfortable participating in those discussions. If you find that you did not participate in a particular discussion you can send me an email up to 24 hours after class. In the email, write 200-300 words about your thoughts on the readings and you can receive participation credit for that day. You do not need to explain to me why you did not participate in the discussion.
   d. Everyone is expected to be respectful and polite, bearing in mind that other students may have different backgrounds and experiences.

4. Final (20%)
   a. The final exam will consist in several short answer questions about the reading and an essay question.
   b. The final exam is scheduled during the following time:
      i. Section 1 (class that meets at 12pm): 2-5pm on Tuesday April 25th
      ii. Section 2 (class that meets at 1:30pm): 9-12pm on Friday, April 28th.

5. Service Learning Component (20%)
   a. Service-Learning Contract. Please turn in the contract to Associate Dean Kerstin Soderlund (ksoderlu@richmond.edu).
   b. Field Supervisor Evaluation. I will use this evaluation to assess the quality of service hours, responsibility, and initiative shown at the site of service.
   c. Attendance. You will also be graded on whether you completed your service hours and attended all of the required events. You
must complete **24 hours of community service** at an approved site.

d. **Three Journal Entries.** You must complete three journals that reflect critically on your community service and your police ride along. Journal entries should be about 300-500 words and combine some element of the experience at the service setting and some element of personal introspection. You can find the deadlines for the journal entries in the main syllabus. These journal entries will be graded on a pass-fail basis.

**Required or Recommended Texts:**
- Michael Sandel, *Justice: Doing the Right Thing*
- James Ryan, *Five Miles Away, A World Apart*
- Kathryn Edin & Luke Shaefer, *$2.00 A Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*
- Michael Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*
- Byran Stevenson, *Just Mercy*

All other readings are available on the blackboard page for this class. I may make some modifications to the syllabus as the semester progresses. I’ll announce any changes to the syllabus in class and you can always find the updated syllabus on blackboard. It’s your responsibility to make sure that you have the updated version of the syllabus.

**Week 1: Theories of Justice**

Tuesday, January 10th:

Thursday, January 12th:

**Week 2: Theories of Justice**

Tuesday, January 17th:

Thursday, January 19th:

**Week 3: Justice & Education**

Tuesday, January 24th: Massive Resistance and Richmond
Thursday, January 26th: Inequality and School Finance
• Ryan, *Five Miles Away*, chapter 4.
• Debra Satz, “Equality, Adequacy, and Education for Citizenship.”

**Week 4: Justice & Education**

Tuesday, January 31st: School Choice
• Ryan, *Five Miles Away*, chapter 5.
• Joseph Spoerl, “Justice and the Case for School Vouchers.”
• Recommended: Ryan, *Five Miles Away*, chapter 6.

Thursday, February 2nd: Integration
• Ryan, *Five Miles Away*, chapter 8.
• Recommended: Tommie Shelby, “Community.”

**Week 5: Justice, Poverty, and Welfare**

Tuesday, February 7th:
• Alex Rajczi, “What is the Conservative Point of View About Distributive Justice?”
• Recommended: Scott Winship, “Poverty After Welfare Reform.”

Thursday, February 9th:
• Edin & Shaefer, *$2.00 A Day*, chapter 2.
• T.M. Wilkinson, “The Ethics and Economics of the Minimum Wage.”

**Week 6: Justice, Poverty, and Welfare**

Tuesday, February 14th:
• Edin & Shaefer, *$2.00 A Day*, chapters 3-4.
• Elizabeth Anderson, “Welfare, Work, and Dependent Care.”

Thursday, February 16th: Rethinking Welfare
• Edin & Shaefer, *$2.00 A Day*, conclusion.
• Rutger Berman, “Why We Should Give Free Money to Everyone.”

**Week 7: Justice and Gender**

Tuesday, February 21st: Gender Equality
• Pamela Stone, “Getting to Equal.”
• Noah Berlatsky, “When Men Experience Sexism.”
• Ingrid Robeyns, “When Will Society Be Gender Just?”

Thursday, February 23rd: Contemporary Debates
• German Lopez, “Nine questions about gender identity and being transgender you were too embarrassed to ask.”
• Christine Overall, “Trans Persons, Cisgender Persons, and Gender Identities.”
• Mona Charen, “Hands Off the Ladies Room.”

Friday, February 24th:
• First paper due at 5pm. Please email your paper to me at hidalgoj@gmail.com.

Week 8: Race and Justice

Tuesday, February 28th:
• Recommended: Heather MacDonald, “The Decriminalization Delusion.”
• No reading responses due this week.

Thursday, March 2nd:
• Alexander, The New Jim Crow, chapters 3-4.
• Jill Leovy, “The Underpolicing of Black America.”

Friday, March 3rd:
• First journal entry due. Please submit your entry through blackboard (you can find the assignment in the content folder for week 8).

Week 9: Spring Break

• No Class

Week 10: Race and Justice

Tuesday, March 14th:
• Alexander, The New Jim Crow, chapters 5-6.
• James Forman, “Racial Critiques of Mass Incarceration.”

Thursday, March 16th: Contemporary Issues and Debates
• Heather Mac Donald, “The New National Crime Wave.”
Week 11: The War On Drugs

Tuesday, March 21st:
• James Wilson, “Against the Legalization of Drugs.”
• Peter De Marneffe, “Decriminalize, Don’t Legalize.”
• No reading response due this week.

Thursday March 23rd:
• Michael Huemer, “America’s Unjust Drug War.”
• Jeffrey Miron, “The Economics of Drug Prohibition and Drug Legalization.”

Friday, March 24th:
• Second journal entry due. Please submit your entry through blackboard (you can find the assignment in the content folder for this week).

Week 12: Criminal Justice

Tuesday, March 28th:
• Stephen Nathanson, “An Eye for an Eye.”
• Bryan Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, introduction, chapters 1-5.

Thursday, March 30th:
• Lois Pojman, “A Defense of the Death Penalty”
• Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, chapters 6-10.

Week 13: Criminal Justice & Immigration

Tuesday, April 4th: The Innocent Project
• Professor Mary Tate Visits.
• Lieberman, et al. “Capital Attrition.”
• Stevenson, *Just Mercy*, chapters 11, 13, 15-16.

Thursday, April 6th: Illegal Immigration

Week 14: Immigration

Tuesday, April 11th: The Case for Immigration Restrictions
• Michael Clemens, “What Nativists Don't Want You to Know About Immigrants.”

Thursday, April 13th: Open Borders
• Bryan Caplan and Vipul Naik, “A Radical Case for Open Borders.”
Week 15: Review

Monday, April 17th:
  • Second Paper due at 5pm. Please email it to me at hidalgoj@gmail.com.

Tuesday, April 18th:
  • Class Cancelled.

Thursday, April 20th:
  • Review Session

Friday, April 21st:
  • Third journal entry due. Please submit your entry through blackboard (you can find the assignment in the content folder for this week).

Final exam:
  • Section 1 (class that meets at 12pm): 2-5pm on Tuesday April 25th
  • Section 2 (class that meets at 1:30pm): 9-12pm on Friday, April 28th