

COURSE SYLLABUS FORM

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department: Philosophy**

**Course Number and Title: PHIL 252 B (Selected Topics in Political Philosophy:
Economic Justice)**

1. Course Learning Outcomes

This course introduces and examines different conceptions of economic justice. It looks closely at different answers that contemporary political philosophers give to the question: How and on what grounds should economic benefits and burdens be distributed? The aim of the course is to deepen students' understanding of philosophical debates, issues, and distinctions related of economic justice. It equally aims at developing and sharpening students' powers of critical thinking and analysis.

2. Resources Available to Students

The readings for this course are contained in a course packet, which may be purchased at the bookstore.

3. Grading Criteria

Written requirements for this course consist of two papers and a final exam. In addition to these written requirements, you are urged to participate in class discussion.

A rough grade breakdown:

First paper 25%

Second paper 25%

Final exam 40%

Participation: 10%

4. Schedule

Tentative Reading Schedule

1. Rawls' Theory of Justice

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Excerpts).

2. Nozick's Theory of Justice

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* (Excerpts).

3. Justice and Equality

Bernard Williams, "The Idea of Equality".

J. R. Lucas, "Against Equality"

Gregory Vlastos, "Justice and Equality".

4. Justice and Desert

James Rachels, "What People Deserve".

Norman Daniels, "Meritocracy".

Joel Feinberg, "Economic Income as Deserved".

5. Equality of Opportunity

John Schaar, "Equality of Opportunity, and Beyond".

Peter Weston, "The Concept of Equality of Opportunity".

Michael Levin, "Equality of Opportunity".

6. Justice and Liberty

G. A. Cohen, "Robert Nozick and Wilt Chamberlain: How Patterns Preserve Liberty".

Ronald Dworkin, "Why Liberals Should Care About Equality".

Richard Norman, "Does Equality Destroy Liberty".

7. Global Justice

Charles Beitz, "International Distributive Justice".

David Miller, "Justice and Global Inequality".

Thomas Pogge, "An Egalitarian Law of Peoples".

5. Course Policy

Attendance: Students are not penalized for not attending. However, most readings for this course are somewhat challenging. It will thus be hard to do well if you have not been present for class explanations and discussions. .

Cheating: Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or test will be given a zero. There will be no warnings and no second chances.

Plagiarism: Acts of plagiarism violate the Student Code of Conduct and are subject to disciplinary action. It is extremely important that you acknowledge your sources. Not doing so is called plagiarism. If you plagiarize, you will be given a zero for the assignment and your case will be turned over to the student affairs committee, which can decide on a punishment of its choice, up to and including ejection from the university.

Here is how to avoid plagiarism:

- a) If you copy more than 4 or 5 words (word for word) from another source, you must place these words in quotation marks and indicate their source. Failure to do so will count as plagiarism.
- b) If you paraphrase more than a sentence from another source, you must indicate the source. Failure to do so will count as plagiarism.

If you are still not sure what counts as plagiarism, come talk to me. You will not be given a second chance, and I will not accept any excuses.