

## MINI SYLLABUS

Instructor:  
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Stanford University  
designed in 2017

# Philosophy of Public Policy

## Week 1 – Philosophy of Public Policy: An Introduction

- What is philosophy of public policy?
- Key differences between normative and descriptive approaches
- Three methods in ethics

\*No readings

## Week 2 – Universal Basic Income: Part I

- What is Universal Basic Income (UBI)?
- Is it unfair to give everyone cash regardless of personal merit?
- What's the alternative?
- Conceptions: Liberalism, Libertarianism, Perfectionism, Paternalism, Republicanism, Sufficiencyarianism, Egalitarianism
- Concepts: Freedom from interference, Freedom from domination, Real Freedom Liberal neutrality, Autonomy

\*Philippe Van Parijs (2000) A Basic Income for All.

\*Bidanure Juliana (2019) The Political Theory of Universal Basic Income

\*Bruce Ackerman and Anne Alstott (2006) Why Stake-holding?

\*Responses to Philippe Van Parijs (2000) by [Anderson](#), [Barry](#), [Galston](#), [Alstott](#), and [Edelman](#).

\*Video [Interview of Milton Friedman on The Negative Income Tax](#)

## Week 3 – Universal Basic income: Part II

- Which social groups would benefit most from UBI?
- Is UBI an adequate response to technological unemployment?
- Conceptions: Feminism, Gender Justice, Racial Justice, Ethics of Care
- Concepts: Power, Opportunities, Work & Jobs, Reparations

\*Almaz Zelleke (2008) Institutionalizing the Universal Caretaker Through a Basic Income?

\*Dorian Warren (2016) "Universal Basic Income and Black Communities in the United States."

\*Martin Ford (2016) *The Rise of Robots*: Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 10

\*Ai Jen Poo (2017) What basic Income would mean for domestic workers: [Podcast accessible here](#).

\*McKinsey Future of Work report (2017) Executive Summary.

\*What does the debate on automation mean for basic income (2007) [Accessible here](#).

#### **Week 4 – The Ethics of Nudging**

- What is the relationship between justice and wellbeing?
- What is the significance of choice?
- Is nudging ever acceptable?
- What can we do to prevent those who make bad choices from hurting themselves?
- Conceptions: Paternalism, Liberalism, Liberal Paternalism, Egalitarianism
- Concepts: Choice, Autonomy, Control, Respect, Equality, Domination

\*Cass Sustain (2015) "The Ethics of Nudging"

\*Tim Scanlon (1986) "The Significance of choice" - Lecture 2, pages 177-201.

\*Daniel M. Hausman and Brynn Welch (2010) "Debate: To Nudge or Not to Nudge"

\*Fay Niker (2018) "Policy-led virtue cultivation: Can we nudge citizens towards developing virtues?"

#### **Week 5 – The Ethics of Voting**

- Is voting merely a right or also a duty?
- What are we trying to do when we vote?
- Should teenagers have the right to vote?
- Conceptions: Democratic theories, Democratic equality, Intergenerational Justice
- Concepts: Rights, Duties, Age, Competence, Democracy,

\*Annabelle Lever (2009) "Is Compulsory Voting Justified?"

\*Emilee Both Chapman (2019) "The distinctive value of Elections and the case for compulsory voting"

\*Jonathan Wolff (1994) "Democratic Voting and The Mixed-Motivation Problem"

\*Luc Bovens (2006) "The Doctrinal Paradox and the Mixed-Motivation Problem."

\*Tommy Peto (2016) "Why the voting age should be lowered to 16?"

#### **Week 6 – Affirmative Action**

- What is affirmative action?
- What is discrimination?
- Who can represent whom?
- Conceptions: Egalitarianism, Anti-Racism, Feminism, Justice as fairness, Luck egalitarianism
- Concepts: Discrimination, Opportunities, Inequalities, Descriptive & Symbolic Representation

\*Robert Fullinwider 2018 "Affirmative Action", Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

\*Robert Simon (1974) "Preferential Hiring: A Reply to Judith Jarvis Thomson"

\*Kwame Anthony Appiah (2011) "Group Rights and Racial Affirmative Action"

\*Jane Mansbridge (1999) "Should Blacks Represent Blacks and Women Represent Women? A Contingent Yes".

\*Juliana Bidadanure (2015) "Better Procedures for Fairer Outcomes: Can Youth Quotas in Parliaments increase our Chances of Meeting the Demands of Intergenerational Justice."

### **Week 7 – Crime and Punishment**

- Why punish?
- When are criminals blameworthy?
- Is it just to punish people who can't be blamed?
- Conceptions: Retributive Justice, Consequentialism, Restorative Justice, Harm
- Concepts: Violence, Forgiveness, Apology, Remorse, Mercy, Utility, Human Rights

\*Jonathan Wolff (2011), *Ethics and Public policy*: Chapter on crime and punishment.

\*Jeff Murphy (2007) "Remorse, Apology, and Mercy."

\*Tommie Shelbie (2007) "Justice, Deviance, and the Dark Ghetto."

\*Christopher Lewis (2016) "Inequality, Incentives, Criminality, and Blame."

\* Barbara Fried (2013) "Beyond Blame."

### **Week 8 – In the Name of Security**

- What value is there in security and safety?
- Which rights can we infringe on to achieve national security?
- Do we have a right to privacy?
- What is wrong with torture?
- Conceptions: Liberalism, Nationalism, Utilitarianism, Deontology, Consequentialism.
- Concepts: Privacy, Danger, Safety, Violence, Consequences, Values

\*Judith Thompson (1975) "The Right to Privacy"

\*Stephen Coleman (2006) "'Email, Terrorism, and the Right to Privacy'

\*Jeff McMahan (2008) "Torture in Principle and in Practice"

\* David Sussman (2005) "What's Wrong with Torture?"

### **Week 9 – Student's choice week: Education and Inequalities**

\*Nikole Hannah Jones (2016) "Choosing a school for my daughter in a segregated City."

\*Charles Lawrence (2005) "Forbidden Conversations: On Race, Privacy, and Community." Sections I, II and IV

### **Week 10 – Presentations**

