

## COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Course Description

In our increasingly complex social world, many of the pressing moral problems we face-- environmental, economic, political, and social--cannot be solved by individual action. Responding to such issues as climate change, poverty, exploitation, and social prejudice will require us to engage in some form of shared or collective action. This section will examine moral principles and problems with an eye to understanding the special challenges and promise of collective action with respect to issues of social justice. What are my obligations to those in need, or those less well-off? How can I be an "ethical consumer," an "ethical eater," or a good citizen? When is it morally wrong for me to do things that contribute to environmental degradation, or to global and social inequality? In exploring and evaluating answers to these questions, we will draw on the philosophical concepts and tools introduced in the course lectures and readings.

### Course requirements

Midterm Exam	20%
Paper	20%
Conference in the Classroom	30%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	5%

### Conference in the Classroom

(under development) Students will host an in-class conference on the topics covered throughout the course. Students (or teams of students) will be asked to present papers, comment on papers, and reply to questions and objections from their peers.

Required textbook: Iris Marion Young, Responsibility for Justice

Week	Topic	Readings
1	Responsibility for Structural (In)justice	RFJ Ch. 1, "From Personal to Political Responsibility" Ronald Dworkin, "Justice, Insurance, and Luck"
2		RFJ Ch. 2, "Structure as the Subject of Justice" John Rawls, A Theory of Justice Ch. 3-4
3		RFJ Ch. 3, "Guilt versus Responsibility" Hannah Arendt, "Collective Responsibility"
4		RFJ Ch. 4, "A Social Connection Model" Sally Haslanger, "Oppressions: Racial and Other"
5	Global Poverty	Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"

		Debra Satz, "International Economic Justice"*
6		Onora O'Neill, "A Kantian Approach to Famine Relief" John Arthur, "Rights and the Duty to Bring Aid"
7		RFJ Ch. 5, "Responsibility Across Borders"
8	Racial Injustice	RFJ Ch. 6, "Avoiding Responsibility" Charles Mills, "White Ignorance" Sarah Lucia Hoagland, "Denying Relationality: Epistemology and Ethics and Ignorance"
9		RFJ Ch. 7, "Responsibility and Historic Injustice" Naomi Zack, "Reparations and the Rectification of Race"
10	Bias and Stereotype	Cordelia Fine, <i>Delusions of Gender</i> * Daniel Kelly & Erica Roedder, "Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Implicit Bias"
11		Jules Holroyd, "Responsibility for Bias" Cheshire Calhoun, "Responsibility and Reproach" Larry May, "Shared Responsibility for Racism"
12	Collective Agents	Peter French, <i>Individual and Collective Responsibility</i> * Elizabeth Anderson & Richard Pildes, "Expressive Theories of Law"* Jorge Garcia, "The Heart of Racism"
13	Climate Change	Baylor Johnson, "Ethical Obligations in a Tragedy of the Commons" Marion Hourdequin, "Climate, Collective Action, and Individual Ethical Obligations"
14		Kyle Powys Whyte, "Indigenous Women, Climate Change Impacts, and Collective Action" Christine Cuomo, "Climate Change, Vulnerability, and Responsibility"