SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY
Philosophy 340F (Section 1), Fall 2008

Instructors: David Speetzen and Kit Wellman

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Meeting Time and Place: T & TH, 2:30-4:00 in Cupples I 115

Office Hours: David - Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 and freely available by appointment
Kit – Freely available by appointment

Texts: Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia (Basic)
Rawls, A Theory of Justice, revised ed. (Harvard)
Young, Justice and the Politics of Difference (Princeton)

Grading:

Final grades are based in part on your "daily summaries" (20%), but mostly on your papers (80%). You are to write two 3,000 word papers. Your grades on these papers will each count for 40% of your final grade. If you write three papers, we will drop your lowest grade.

The remaining 20% of the final grade will be based upon your daily summaries of the assigned reading. Each day you should prepare a half to full single-spaced, typed page summary of the assigned reading. In these, you should briefly explain the author's thesis and how she argues in defense of her position. These will be collected at the beginning of each class. Every student may fail to turn in three such summaries without penalty; beginning with the fourth missed assignment, each additional summary missed will result in a 5% reduction in that student's grade for the daily summaries. Thus, if you turn in all but three such summaries, you will earn 100% on this portion of your grade; if you miss six, you will earn an 85%; and if you miss nine, you will earn 70% on this portion of your grade. As long as they are of sufficient quality, these daily summaries will not be returned.

Where possible, David and I prefer not to know whose paper we are grading, so please submit your summaries and essays with only your or student ID numbers on them.

Please note that this syllabus is meant to provide only a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.

Schedule:

Tuesdays	Thursdays
	8/28: Introduction
9/2: Rawls: Sections 1-7	9/4: Rawls: Sections 8-12
9/9: Rawls: Sections 13-19	9/11: Rawls: Sections 20-25
9/16: Rawls: Sections 26-30	9/18: Rawls: Sections 31-36
9/23: Rawls: Sections 37-40	9/25: Rawls: Sections 43, 66-68, 77
9/30: Rawls: Sec. 78, 79, 82, 85-87, **Paper due**	10/2: Nozick: 3-25
10/7: Nozick: 26-53	10/9: Nozick: 54-87
10/14: Nozick: 88-119	10/16: Nozick: 120-146
10/21: Nozick: 149-182	10/23: Nozick: 183-231
10/28: Nozick: 232-275	10/30: Nozick: 276-294
11/4: Nozick: 297-334, **Paper due**	11/6: Young: 3-38
11/11: Young: 39-65	11/13: Young: 66-95
11/18: Young: 96-121	11/20: Young: 122-155
11/25: Young: 156-191	11/27: Thanksgiving
12/2: Young: 192-225	12/4: Young: 226-256, **Paper due**