

BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION for ADULTS

Summer Quarter 2024

John Rawls: A Theory of Justice

INSTRUCTOR	DATES AND TIMES	LOCATION
Michael R. Jones	COURSE LENGTH: 8 Weeks DATES: June 13 – August 15 No class: July 4, July 25	Remote Course
EMAIL: mrjones@uchicago.edu Instructor can be contacted through Canvas message	DAY OF THE WEEK: Thursday TIMES: 9:30am to 12:45pm	COURSE CODE and SECTION: BASC 70249 24U1 PREREQUISITES: None

Remote courses require you to login to Canvas to access the Zoom Classroom. **You will receive an invitation to join Canvas about a week before your course begins.** Please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts> to find Canvas login instructions, Zoom instructions, and student training sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We will read and discuss John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*. This book is a comprehensive and influential attempt to provide a philosophical justification for a conception of justice that supports civil, economic, and political liberties within tolerant democratic political institutions. Rawls carries out his argument by means of a version of social contract theory that seeks to replace more familiar appeals to utility and efficiency. The book has been widely read and vigorously challenged since the first version was published in 1971. We will read it together and examine its arguments for ourselves.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, Revised Edition (Harvard University Press, 1999). ISBN: 0-674-00078-1. **Be sure that you read the Revised Edition.**

Students can purchase books at the Gleacher Center Bookstore online at <https://chicagobooth.bncollege.com/shop/chicagobooth/page/find-textbooks> using the Textbook order form, or by using the ISBN number to order the correct edition elsewhere.

WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

DAY	AUTHOR	READING ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 June 13	Rawls	Chapter I, Justice as Fairness, Sections 1-4; pages 3-19; Chapter II, The Principles of Justice, Sections 11-17; pages 52-93
WEEK 2 June 20	Rawls	Chapter III, The Original Position; pages 102-167
WEEK 3 June 27	Rawls	Chapter IV, Equal Liberty; pages 171-227
WEEK 4 July 11	Rawls	Chapter V, Distributive Shares; pages 228-292
WEEK 5 July 18	Rawls	Chapter VI, Duty and Obligation; pages 293-343
WEEK 6 August 1	Rawls	Chapter VII, Goodness as Rationality; pages 347-396
WEEK 7 August 8	Rawls	Chapter VIII, The Sense of Justice; pages 397-449
WEEK 8 August 15	Rawls	Chapter IX, The Good of Justice; pages 450-514

Students will receive an invitation to join the Graham School Student Community Canvas Site, a place to read announcements, have discussions, ask questions, and find resources.

DISABILITY INFORMATION

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.