

## **PHI 6934: SEMINAR ON EQUALITY FALL 2021**

### **INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Jaime Ahlberg

Office Hours: Mondays 1-3 via zoom and in-person by appointment

Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99423820535?pwd=WNXS2JwZU1GOTBCCVRoNVRzRWpTdz09>

Office: 333 Griffin-Floyd Hall (tel. 352-273-1814)

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E-mail is the most efficient way to get in touch with me.

### **COURSE DETAILS**

Time: M 3pm-6pm (Periods 8-10)

Location: FLO Phil Dept Library

Announcements may sometimes be posted on the course webpage at <https://elearning.ufl.edu>

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

“Equality” is both a foundational and highly contested concept in social and political philosophy. While many endorse the importance of equality as a value, there is little agreement on its meaning as a political idea and its role in social justice. Debate is thus ongoing about the nature of the concept, its relationship to other moral and political concepts (such as freedom, partiality, and community, for example), and its overall value.

In this seminar we will explore contemporary discussion surrounding these issues. Topics will include the nature of equality, possible relationship(s) of equality to justice, the currency of equality (‘equality of *what?*’), the subjects of equality (‘equality among *whom?*’), and objections to equality as a value. By the conclusion of the seminar students should expect to be familiar not only with the shape of these debates, but also with some of the most influential work in contemporary political philosophy.

Students will be responsible for leading in class discussions, writing a book review on a contemporary book relevant to course themes, and completing a final paper.

### **TEXTS**

1. Readings will be made available as pdfs or links, on the course canvas page or this syllabus

### **REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Presentations on assigned reading                                | 30% (15% each) |
| 2. Book Review  | 10%            |
| 3. Presentation at the course mini-conference (on your final paper) | 10%            |
| 4. Final Paper  | 50%            |

## Grading Scale

A	4.0	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	84-86
B-	2.67	80-83
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	74-76
C-	1.67	70-73
D+	1.33	67-69
D	1.0	64-66
D-	0.67	60-63
E	0.0	0-59

### Attendance

Regular attendance will be essential to your success in the course. If you need to be absent please let me know. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog (<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

### Participation

You must come to class on time and prepared. This means keeping current on the reading assignments and being aware of the course schedule and activities, as discussed in class and announced on the course website. If you find it difficult to participate in the seminar environment please let me know, as I may be able to help.

### Presentations

Twice during the semester students will present on the assigned reading. Each presentation should take the form of a short paper (about 4 double-spaced pages or so, 12 pt. Times New Roman font). Students should come to class with a copy of their short paper for each class member, and will begin the presentation by reading the paper. Class members will be responsible for responding to each presentation, and all are responsible for follow-up discussion.

Presentations might involve developing a line of criticism or an attempt to analyze and interpret aspects of the reading. Please plan on discussing your presentation idea with me in advance of the seminar.

### Final Paper

Each student must write a final paper for the course and submit a hard copy to my mailbox by the deadline: **3pm on Monday, November 29**. Your paper should be about 15-20 pages (double-spaced, 12pt. Times New Roman font). It may be on any topic of your choosing but it must be related to the seminar. I am happy to help you develop a paper idea and to recommend external readings that might be helpful as you prepare your arguments.

### **Mini Conference**

During the last two seminars of the semester we will have a mini-conference. Students will each be allotted a short session in which to present their paper to the class and field questions and comments from their classmates. You should plan on delivering your paper in about 15-20 minutes, followed by 15-20 minutes of Q&A. Keep in mind that this time constraint may make it difficult for you to simply read your paper to your audience; a better strategy will probably involve talking through your main arguments (perhaps by way of a helpful handout).

## **OTHER POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **University Honesty Policy**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

### **Canvas e-Learning Environment**

This course is supplemented by online content in the e-Learning environment known as "Canvas." To login to the e-Learning site for this course, go to <https://elearning.ufl.edu/>, click the **e-Learning in Canvas** button, and on the next page enter your Gatorlink username and password. You can then access the course e-Learning environment by selecting PHI 6934 from the **Courses** pull-down menu at the top of the page. If you encounter any difficulties logging in or accessing any of the course content, contact the UF Computing Help Desk at (352) 392-4537. Do not contact the course instructor regarding computer issues.

### **Online Course Evaluation**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. Students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

### **Software Use**

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

## Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

## CAMPUS RESOURCES

### Health and Wellness

#### **U Matter, We Care:**

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

#### **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)**

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

**University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or

<http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

### Academic Resources

**E-learning technical support**, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

**Career Resource Center**, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

**Library Support**, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

**Teaching Center**, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

**Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall**, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

#### **Student Complaints Campus:**

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf).

**On-Line Students Complaints:** <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.

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Fall 2021

**Please come to class having already read the assignments listed for that day.**

Date	Assignment
<b>Week 1</b> 8/25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductions</li> <li>2. Background on the Seminar</li> <li>3. Sign up for presentations</li> </ol> <p>Recommended Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gosepath, Stefan, "Equality", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (Summer 2021 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.). URL = <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2021/entries/equality/">https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2021/entries/equality/</a></li> <li>2. Arneson, Richard, "Egalitarianism", <i>The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> (Summer 2013 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.). URL = <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2013/entries/egalitarianism/">https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/sum2013/entries/egalitarianism/</a></li> </ol>
<b>Week 2</b> 9/1	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Kinds of Egalitarianism</b></p> <p>Derek Parfit, 1995, <i>Equality or Priority?</i>, The Lindley Lectures, Lawrence, KA: The University of Kansas.</p>
<b>Week 3</b> 9/8	<p>Larry Temkin, "Equality, Priority, and the Levelling Down Objection"</p>
<b>Week 4</b> 9/15	<p>G.A. Cohen, "The Pareto Argument for Inequality" <i>Social Philosophy and Policy</i>, 12 (1995)</p>
<b>Week 5</b> 9/22	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Equality of What?</b></p> <p>Richard Arneson, "Equality and Equal Opportunity for Welfare" <i>Philosophical Studies</i> 56 (1989)</p>
<b>Week 6</b> 9/29	<p>Ronald Dworkin, 1981, "What is Equality? Part 2: Equality of Resources," <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i>, 10: 283–345; reprinted in R. Dworkin, <i>Sovereign Virtue. The Theory and Practice of Equality</i>, Cambridge: Harvard University Press 2000, pp. 65–119.</p>
<b>Week 7</b> 10/6	<p>Amartya Sen, "Capability and Wellbeing" Martha Nussbaum, <i>Creating Citizens</i> excerpts</p>

<b>Week 8</b> 10/13	<b>Relational Equality</b>
	Anderson, Elizabeth, 1999, "What Is the Point of Equality?," <i>Ethics</i> , 109: 287–337.
<b>Week 9</b> 10/20	
	Scheffler, Samuel, 2003, "What is Egalitarianism?," <i>Philosophy and Public Affairs</i> , 31: 5–39
<b>Week 10</b> 10/27	
	Scanlon, "The Diversity of Objections to Inequality" The Lindley Lectures, Lawrence, KA: The University of Kansas.
<b>Week 11</b> 11/3	<b>Complex Equality</b>
	Michael Walzer, "Complex Equality"
<b>Week 12</b> 11/10	<b>Equality in Practice: Race, Sex, and Intersectionality</b>
	Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989) "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics" <i>The University of Chicago Legal Forum</i> <a href="https://philpapers.org/archive/CREDTI.pdf">https://philpapers.org/archive/CREDTI.pdf</a>
<b>Week 13</b> 11/17	<b>Equality in Practice: Class &amp; Work</b>
	TBD
<b>Week 14</b> 11/22	<b>Equality in Practice: Health</b>
	TBD
<b>Week 15</b> 11/24	Thanksgiving Holiday: No Class
<b>Week 15</b> 12/1	Student Presentations
<b>Week 16</b> 12/8	Student Presentations

