

POL 457/2057
Markets, Justice and the Human Good

Syllabus for second term

Joseph H. Carens
SSH 3044
Tel.: 416-978-8521

Office hours: Tues. 4:10 – 5:00
Wed. 4:10 – 5:00
email: jcarens@chass.utoronto.ca

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* (Harvard)
Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, *The Spirit Level* (Bloomsbury)
Andrew Mason, *Levelling the Playing Field* (Oxford)
Stuart White, *The Civic Minimum* (Oxford)
Ross Zucker, *Democratic Distributive Justice* (Cambridge)

All of the books except *The Spirit Level* are available electronically from the library. They can also be purchased from most academic bookstores and online book dealers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

I. Short Papers and Participation (20 % of final grade). This includes the following:

A) Three short papers on the readings. At least one of the papers must respond to Piketty. The others must be on two different authors.

The comments are an opportunity to reflect upon the readings in a way that will provide a stimulus and focus for class discussion. You should not summarize the readings. Instead you should take a position or sketch an argument or indicate what you find interesting or puzzling or problematic about some part of the readings. The comments need not cover every topic. You need not try to work out a detailed argument and indeed will probably not have the space to do so.

You must post your comments on Blackboard by **6:00 pm on the Monday evening** before the class in which the material is to be discussed. The maximum length is one page single spaced (12 point type, 1" margins). **Late papers (i.e., papers submitted after 6 p.m.) will not be accepted.**

B) Active and informed participation in class discussion.

III. Second term paper. (40 % of final grade)

12-15 pages for undergraduates; 15- 20 pages for grad students. Analytical and critical paper discussing Piketty and at least one of the other authors. Due April 3.

Submission: All papers should be submitted electronically to the instructor.

Late Penalties: For the second paper, no late penalties are imposed for late papers turned in through April 12 at 11:59 pm. After that, , late papers will be penalized one point per day including weekends, unless an extension is explicitly granted in advance.

SCHEDULE OF SPRING READINGS

Jan. 6: Piketty, Intro and Part One (no office hours this week)

Jan. 13: Piketty, Part Two

Jan. 20: Piketty, Part Three

Jan. 27: Piketty, Part Four and Conclusion

Feb. 3: Wilkinson and Pickett, Parts One and Two

Feb. 10: Wilkinson and Pickett, Part Three and Postscript

Feb. 17: Term Break. No class.

Feb. 24: Mason, Intro and chapters 1-4

Mar. 3: Mason, Chapters 5-9

Mar. 10: White, Chapters 1-5

Mar. 17: White, Chapters 6-9

Mar. 24: Zucker, Parts I and II

Mar. 31: Zucker, Parts III and IV