

PHIL 122 Section: 01, "Social Justice"

Spring 2023

Wednesday, 3:00PM – 5:45PM

241 Sweeney Hall

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This class investigates contemporary issues of social justice in the US and abroad. To this end, we will be chiefly concerned with two overarching sets of concerns: first, what is justice, and what does it mean for a society to be just? Within philosophy, there are several competing answers to this question: (i) the fair distribution of resources and positions of power across society, (ii) recognition of inherent human rights and equality before the law, (iii) acknowledging just acquisition and just transfer as the basis for property rights, (iv) offering reparations or restitutions to victims and marginalized populations, among others. In examining each of these, we will try to figure out whether, and to what extent, they can contribute to an understanding of *social* justice. The second set of concerns involves how we achieve social justice today, both locally and globally. To this end, we will examine a host of contemporary problems, including, but not limited to: healthcare, reproductive rights, immigration, refugee crisis, climate justice, prisons and criminal justice.