

Political Philosophy 118: Philosophy of Social Movements

Monday and Wednesday 1:40 - 3:00pm WELLM 202

Wednesday 6:10 - 7:00pm STORER 1342

Wednesday 7:10 - 8:00pm STORER 1342

Professor Elvira Basevich, Ph.D.

Office Hours: Monday 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Teaching Assistant Daisy Underhill

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to key voices and debates in contemporary political philosophy through a focus on a new, vibrant topic: the philosophy of social movements. The course consists of five sections investigating (1) what a social movement is, (2) the relation of social movements to democracy, (3) the intersection of race and class in political critique, (4) moral innovation, and finally (5) social epistemology of resistance, protest, critique and ideology.

Required Books:

Michelle Moody-Adams, *Making Space for Justice*

Nancy Fraser, *Cannibal Capitalism*

Part I. What is a Social Movement?

Week 1:

- Michelle Moody-Adams, “What is a Social Movement?”, Chp. 1, *Making Space for Justice*
- Avery Kolers, “Social Movements”

Week 2.

- Robin Zheng, “Theorizing social change”
- Robin Zheng, “Reconceptualizing Solidarity as Power from Below.”

Part II. Social Movements and Democracy

Week 3.

- Michelle Moody-Adams, “Social Movements and the Task of Democracy”, Chp. 2, *Making Space for Justice*
- Cristina Lafont, “Deliberation, Participation, and Democratic Legitimacy: Should Deliberative Mini-Publics Shape Public Policy?”

Week 4

- Cristina Lafont, *Democracy without Shortcuts*, chp. 1 & 2
- Nancy Fraser, *Cannibal Capitalism*, Chp. 1

Part III. Social Movements at the Intersection of Race and Class

Week 5

- Nancy Fraser, “Expropriation and Exploitation in Racialized Capitalism: A Reply to Michael Dawson”
- Nancy Fraser, “Glutton for Punishment: Why Capitalism Is Structurally Racist,” Chp. 2, *Cannibal Capitalism*
- Michael Dawson, “Hidden in Plain Sight: A Note on Legitimation Crises and the Racial Order”

Part IV. Moral Innovation

Week 6

- Michelle Moody-Adams, “Social Movements and Moral Life”, Chp. 3, *Making Space for Justice*
- Michelle Moody-Adams, “Taking Imagination Seriously”, Chp. 4, *Making Space for Justice*

Week 7

- Michelle Moody-Adams, “Justice and the Narrative Imagination”, Chp. 4, *Making Space for Justice*
- Henry Richardson, “Introducing New Moral Norms,” Chp. 5, *Articulating the Moral Community*
- Linda Radzik “Richardson on moral innovation”

Part V. The Epistemology of Resistance

Week 8

- José Medina, *The Epistemology of Protest*, Chps. 1, 4, 7
- José Medina, *The Epistemology of Resistance*, Introduction, Chp. 5.2, & Conclusion

Week 9

- Sally Haslanger, “Political Epistemology and Social Critique”
- Sally Haslanger, “‘But Mom, Crop-Tops Are Cute!’ Social Knowledge, Social Structure and Ideology Critique”

Week 10

- Elizabeth Anderson, “Social movements, experiments in living, and moral progress: Case studies from Britain’s abolition of slavery”
- Elizabeth Anderson, “The social epistemology of morality: Learning from the forgotten history of the abolition of slavery”
- Nancy Fraser, *Cannibal Capitalism*, Chps. 5, 6

Final Exam: Tue. Dec. 12 at 8:00am