George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  _X_ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit:  Public & International Affairs/ADJ
Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: JLCP  
Course Number:  700

Full Course Title: Theories of Justice

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.):  Theories of Justice

Credit hours:  3  
Program of Record:  Justice, Law, & Crime Policy

Repeatable for Credit?  
_D=Yes, not within same term  ___ Up to hours
_T=Yes, within the same term  ___ Up to hours
_**X**_ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  
___ Lecture (LEC)  ___ Lab (LAB)  ___ Recitation (RCT)
___ Studio (STU)  ___ Internship (INT)  ___ Independent Study (IND)  **_X_** Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  **3:3:0**  
Course Level:  GF(500-600)  **__GA(700+) **_X_

Maximum Enrollment:  20  
For NEW courses, first term to be offered:  Fall 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites:  None

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  
Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses.:

**JLCP 700 Theories of Justice (3:3:0).** Overview of ancient and modern theories of justice with application to contemporary issues involving the justice system and other social and political institutions.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  
Previous Course Abbreviation:  
Previous number:  

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:

Submitted by:  
email: smastrof@gmu.edu

Department/Program:  
Date:  

College Committee:  
Date:  

Graduate Council Representative:  
Date:  
**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**Course Coordination Form**

**Approval from other units:**

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Council approval: ___________________________________________ Date: ___________

Graduate Council representative: ___________________________ Date: ___________

Provost Office representative: ___________________________ Date: ___________
George Mason University
Graduate Course Approval/Inventory Form

Please complete this form and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses. Forward it as an email attachment to the Secretary of the Graduate Council. A printed copy of the form with signatures should be brought to the Graduate Council Meeting. Complete the Coordinator Form on page 2, if changes in this course will affect other units.

Please indicate:  ____ NEW  ____ MODIFY  ____ DELETE

Local Unit: Public & International Affairs  Graduate Council Approval Date:

Course Abbreviation: GOVT  Course Number: 726

Full Course Title: Theories of Justice

Abbreviated Course Title (24 characters max.): Theories of Justice

Credit hours: 3  Program of Record: Political Science M.A.

Repeatable for Credit?  ____ D=Yes, not within same term  Up to hours

____ T=Yes, within the same term  Up to hours

_X_ N=Cannot be repeated for credit

Activity Code (please indicate):  ____ Lecture (LEC)  ____ Lab (LAB)  ____ Recitation (RCT)

____ Studio (STU)  ____ Internship (INT)  ____ Independent Study (IND)  _X_ Seminar (SEM)

Catalog Credit Format  3:3:0  Course Level:  GF(500-600)  ____ GA(700+)  _X_

Maximum Enrollment: 20  For NEW courses, first term to be offered: Fall 2005

Prerequisites or corequisites: None

Catalog Description (35 words or less)  Please use catalog format and attach a copy of the syllabus for new courses:  GOVT 726 Theories of Justice (3:3:0). Overview of ancient and modern theories of justice with application to contemporary issues involving the justice system and other social and political institutions.

For MODIFIED or DELETED courses as appropriate:

Last term offered:  Previous Course Abbreviation:  Previous number:

Description of modification:

APPROVAL SIGNATURES:
Submitted by:  ________________________________ email: smastrof@gmu.edu

Department/Program:  ________________________________ Date: __________________

College Committee:  ________________________________ Date: __________________

Graduate Council Representative:  ________________________________ Date: __________________
GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY  
Course Coordination Form

**Approval from other units:**

Please list those units outside of your own who may be affected by this new, modified, or deleted course. Each of these units must approve this change prior to its being submitted to the Graduate Council for approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit:</th>
<th>Head of Unit’s Signature:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Council approval: __________________________________________ Date: ____________

Graduate Council representative: _______________________________ Date: ____________

Provost Office representative: ________________________________ Date: ____________
JLCP 700/GOVT 726

Theories of Justice

On his way to defend his life in court Socrates paused to discuss justice. As he considered the enforcement of the demands of justice and law on his own life Socrates attempted to understand what exactly composed true justice. The question of what makes some actions just and some unjust haunts any attempt to punish certain coercive or forceful actions through the use of other coercive actions. Socrates’ question remains at the center of law enforcement and court action: what is justice?

This course explores and evaluates ancient and modern attempts to think about justice, particularly in everyday political and social practice. Like Socrates, on the verge of his own defense, this course attempts to take abstract concerns of justice and apply them to the specific and demanding concerns of the power of law and law enforcement.

Topic Description

Specifically, this course will examine the role of justice in political obligation and authority; connections between justice and violence; connections between justice and group identity; accounts of the individual upon which many theories of justice are constructed; the roles of location, space and public vision in conceptions and reflections of a just society; and, in order to look at many of these questions from a slightly different angle, the commerce and exchange between people and their gods and the ways these conceptions create ideas of justice. Furthermore, we are going to explore many contemporary issues, such as affirmative action, racial profiling, privacy, and globalization, as ways to adjudicate the relative benefits and limitations on various accounts of justice.

The goal of this course is to compare and contrast theories of justice in order to strengthen the analytical skills of students while applying this knowledge to real life social concerns. The first half of the course will focus on the basic assumptions underlying each theory, emphasizing historical accounts. The second half of the course will explore contemporary critiques and appropriations of classical justice theory and present current perspectives that address issues of justice in relation to race, class, gender and the world.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Course Objectives and Learning Methods

The most important method applied to foster learning is reading. Students are required to carefully read and think about difficult and demanding texts. These classic readings allow students to reflect on personal and cultural assumptions about justice in critical and sophisticated ways. Students are also expected to discuss, present and write about the readings. This allows them to work through the issues in a variety of learning styles so that the readings have a very deep and significant impact on the ways they view the world.

Course Requirements and Grading

The requirements of the course are designed to meet these objectives. They include:

1. First short essay -- (5 pgs)..............................................25%
2. Second longer essay -- (20 pgs)...........................................50%
Your final grade depends on these three requirements. Your first short paper requires that you use one of the books we will read to address one classic text according to one important issue of justice. Make sure that your essay has a thesis and is supported by specific examples drawn from the text. The second longer paper will require that you compare and contrast two texts along the question of your choice. Papers should explain and evaluate the readings and may bring in other material if you find it relevant--always make sure that the papers make an argument that is clearly supported by specifics. The long paper should take advantage of the work you have done and the comments I have made on the short paper.

**Assigned Texts/Readings**

The required books include the following:

- Plato, *Republic*
- Immanuel Kant, *Ground for the Metaphysics of Morals*
- John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*
- Ronald Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously*
- Susan Moller Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family*

**Outline of Topics**

I. Classic Accounts of Justice

1. Plato, *Republic*

2. Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*

II. Modern Revisions

2. David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*

3. Karl Marx, *Wages, Price and Profit*

III. Contemporary Appropriations


5. Ronald Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously*

6. Susan Moller Okin, *Justice, Gender and the Family*

IV. Individualism and Procedural Justice


V. Economics and Distributed Justice

10. Karl Marx, *Critique of the Gotha Programme*


VI. Justice: Self, Society, and World


13. Michel Foucault, “The Punitive Society”


**Catalog Course Description**

**JLCP 700/GOVT 726 Theories of Justice (3:3:0).** Overview of ancient and modern theories of justice with application to contemporary issues involving the justice system and other social and political institutions.