

**Professor Michael J. Sandel
Harvard University**

ETHICAL REASONING 22x: JUSTICE

This course is an introduction to moral and political philosophy. It explores classical and contemporary theories of justice, and applies these theories to contemporary legal and political controversies. Topics include affirmative action, income distribution, same-sex marriage, the role of markets, debates about rights (human rights and property rights), arguments for and against equality, dilemmas of loyalty in public and private life. The course invites students to subject their own views on these controversies to critical examination.

The principal readings are texts by Aristotle, John Locke, Immanuel Kant, John Stuart Mill, and John Rawls. We also read some contemporary court cases and articles about political issues that raise philosophical questions.

Course lectures, readings, self-tests, and discussion

To get the most out of the course, students are encouraged to watch the lectures, to do as much of the reading as time and interest permit, and to participate in the online class discussions.

Students are also encouraged to assess their progress by taking the ungraded self-tests that follow each lecture.

Challenging your opinions and developing your moral reasoning

Each week, students are invited to offer their views on the moral dilemmas discussed in class by responding to a poll question. Once you submit your answer to a poll question, you will be able to see how your answer compares with the responses offered by other participants in the course. You will also be presented with a challenge to the view you have endorsed. See if you can offer a persuasive reply to the challenge, and then read the replies offered by others.

Earning a certificate of mastery

To receive a certificate of mastery, students must take five short quizzes each consisting of 5 multiple-choice questions and a final exam consisting of 25 multiple-choice questions. Each quiz counts for 5% of the overall grade with the final exam accounting for the remaining 75%. A total score of 60% or higher overall qualifies as a passing grade for the course. While you are encouraged, throughout the semester, to discuss the topics of the course with your friends and fellow students, you must do the quizzes and the final exam on your own, without consulting others. We strongly recommend that students take the five short quizzes in sequence, to assess their progress. For those who want to earn a certificate of mastery, all graded work (the five short quizzes and the final exam) must be completed by June 4th at 7 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time).

COURSE OUTLINE

Lecture 1 - Doing the Right Thing	Release date: March 12
Lecture 2 - The Lifeboat Case	Release date: March 12
Lecture 3 – Utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham	Release date: March 19
Lecture 4 – Utilitarianism: J.S. Mill	Release date: March 19
Quiz 1	Release date: March 19
Lecture 5 – Libertarianism: Free-market philosophy	Release date: March 26
Lecture 6 – Libertarianism: Do we own ourselves?	Release date: March 26
Lecture 7 – John Locke: Property rights	Release date: April 2
Lecture 8 – John Locke: Individual rights and majority rule	Release date: April 2
Lecture 9 - Markets and Morals: Military service	Release date: April 9
Lecture 10 – Markets and Morals: Surrogate motherhood	Release date: April 9
Quiz 2	Release date: April 9
Lecture 11 – Immanuel Kant: What is freedom?	Release date: April 16
Lecture 12 – Immanuel Kant: The supreme principle of morality	Release date: April 16
Lecture 13 – Immanuel Kant: A lesson in lying	Release date: April 23
Quiz 3	Release date: April 23
Lecture 14 – The Morality of Consent	Release date: April 23

Lecture 15 - John Rawls: The case for equality Release date: April 30

Lecture 16 - Distributive Justice: Who deserves what? Release date: April 30

Quiz 4 Release date: April 30

Lecture 17 – Arguing Affirmative Action Release date: May 7

Lecture 18 - Aristotle: Justice and virtue Release date: May 7

Lecture 19 – Aristotle: The good citizen Release date: May 14

Lecture 20 – Aristotle: Freedom vs. fit Release date: May 14

Quiz 5 Release date : May 14

Lecture 21 - Justice, Community, and Membership Release date: May 21

Lecture 22 – Dilemmas of Loyalty Release date: May 21

Lecture 23 – Debating Same-Sex Marriage Release date: May 28

Lecture 24 – Conclusion: Justice and the good life Release date: May 28

Final Exam Release date: May 28

All graded work (the five quizzes and the final exam) must be completed by June 4th at 7 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time).