Preliminary Study Sheet: 2023 Spring Final

Troxell PULSE

Sandel *Justice* Chapters One and Two: Bentham and Mill

1. What are the three ends that determine how the distribution of goods should be decided? How do the debates regarding price gouging, Wall Street bonusses, and Purple Hearts hinge on disagreements regarding these three ends?
2. How does moral reasoning proceed? (28) Why can’t moral deliberation be a solitary pursuit?
3. According to Bentham and Mill, what principle should determine the morality of our actions? Provide and explain the principle.
4. What is the common currency objection to utilitarianism, and how does Mill’s brand of utilitarianism address this problem?
5. How does Mill address the objection that utilitarianism does not recognize the inviolable nature of rights?

Sandel *Justice* Chapters 3 and Six: Rawls and Nozick

1. How does Rawls conceive of justice?
2. How does Rawls’ original position ensure that principles of justice are fair?
3. Explain the conditions that characterize the original position: What do we know and what are we ignorant of behind the veil of ignorance? What characterizes the person behind the veil of ignorance?
4. What are the two principles of justice arrived at from the original position? How are they lexically ordered? Explain.
5. What factors make a contract binding, i.e., give it moral force? Is consent always necessary or sufficient? Explain.
6. How does the original position ensure that the ideals for contracts are fully met? What are these ideals?
7. Why is Rawls’ Difference Principle problematic, and how does Rawls demonstrate that it is superior to meritocratic methods for distributing goods?
8. What characterizes a libertarian approach to justice regarding the role of the government?
9. What, according to Sandel, is libertarianism neither conservative nor progressive?
10. Why doe Nozick reject the notion of justice as fairness regarding distributive justice?
11. According to Nozick, how do you determine if holdings are just?
12. How does Nozick’s account contrast with end-result and time-slice notions of justice such as those of Mill and Rawls?
13. How does Nozick argue that any method of redistribution according to end- result principles of justice is illegitimate?
14. Is taxation ever permissible according to Nozick? Explain.
15. According to Nozick, is it wrong to donate to charities? Why or why not?

Young*, The Five Faces of Oppression*, Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract and* Young*,* Cacho, *The Presumption of White Innocence*

1. How does Young characterize structural oppression, and how is this depiction distinct from the traditional understanding of oppression?
2. What are social groups and how do they relate to Young’s account of oppression? How are social groups different from aggregates and associations?
3. Characterize the five faces of oppression (exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism, violence): whom do they concern, what do they involve, and why are they forms of oppression?
4. Why is distributive justice unable to address each of these forms of oppression?
5. Give an example of each of the five faces of oppression.
6. What does Mills mean by the racial contract? What characterizes the racial contract?
7. How does the purpose of the state according to the racial contract contrast with the purpose of the state in traditional contract theory?
8. How does it contrast with the social contract theory of Rawls?
9. How is the racial contract a moral contract?
10. How is the racial contract an epistemological contract?
11. How is the racial contract a historical contract?
12. How does the transition from the state of nature differ in traditional contract theory and in the racial contract?
13. In the cases of Zimmerman and Alexander, how do the cases differ regarding the use of the Stand Your Ground defense?
14. How was Zimmerman provided with a presumption of innocence not granted to Alexander?

Maureen Linker, *Intellectual Empathy/ Kimberle Crenshaw, Mapping the Margins*

**Words/ terms to know:**

**Systematic Unseeing/Web of belief/cognitive schema/confirmation bias/ intersectionality**

1. Linker identifies several obstacles that make it difficult to engage productively in conversations with people with whom we disagree regarding our social identities. What are these obstacles?
2. According to Linker what are the two approaches we need in order to address these difficulties?
3. What is intellectual empathy, and why is it crucial for critical reasoning?
4. Why do our webs of belief make it difficult to recognize when our values and assumptions are misguided?
5. Why do our cognitive schemata about social groups and social identity tend to be emotionally loaded?
6. How does an intersectional model of social identity challenge monolithic and uniform conceptions of race, gender, class, and other aspects of social identity?
7. What does it mean to say that intersectionality is neither reductive nor additive?
8. What does it mean to say that certain aspects of social identity are interlocking as well as intersecting around systems of domination?
9. What does Linker mean when she describes privilege as a matrix?
10. What are some of the ways that the social location of women of color makes the experience of domestic violence qualitatively different from that of white women?
11. How to the efforts to support women of color who experience domestic violence fail to serve them adequately and/or reinforce their subordination?
12. According to Crenshaw, why does feminist and antiracist politics function in tandem to marginalize the issue of violence against women of color? What example does she provide?

Chou and Feagin*, Myth of the Model Minority*

1. Why, according to the authors, is a systematic racism model better than the assimilation approach for understanding Asian American identity?
2. When did the myth of the model minority originate and to what purpose? Who benefits from this myth?
3. Identify some of the ways that the myth of the model minority is a) inaccurate and b) harmful.
4. Why is disaggregation crucial in recognizing the experiences of Asian Americans?
5. What are some of the examples the authors refer to as evidence that discrimination against Asians causes them serious harm?
6. How does intersectionality come into play when examining the way structural oppression operates for those who identify as Asian American?