

PSCI 7024: Seminar in Political Theory

Topic: Justice, Borders and Boundaries

Spring semester 2019 • Tuesdays 4:45-7:15 pm, KTCH 1B31

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Course description:

This seminar explores various ways in which borders or boundaries play a role in contemporary political theory. Within this theme are questions about species boundaries by which we separate humans from the rest of nature; the “planetary boundaries” by which scientists conceive of ecological limits and within which we may need to reorient our institutions; contested boundaries between persons of race, gender, class and other constructed identities; boundaries demarcated by ability/disability, normal/deviant, and other constructs used to sort and evaluate; borders between nation states and the significance these carry for legal and moral authority; what might be termed “agential boundaries” or the limits of what we may legitimately be seen as responsible for or to; and those boundaries that separate those that are present from those absent (including intergenerational concerns, issues of representation or political marginalization, and so on). The guiding question in each case shall be the same: What constructive function do such boundaries play in making the world more just (or redressing injustice, broadly construed), if any, and what do these boundaries or borders obscure? Following a week of article-length works on borders and boundaries in political theory, the seminar will focus upon four books for three weeks each.

Course requirements and grading:

Each seminar participant is responsible for writing three short (2-3 page) response papers, one journal-length seminar paper, and contribute toward the development of a jointly-authored paper based on themes from the course. These assignments are described below:

Response papers: By the second class meeting, each student will sign up for three weeks (with no more than four students claiming each week’s reading), from which response papers are to be drawn. Papers should not merely summarize the reading for the week, but should critically discuss issues addressed in them, raising questions or issues from the arguments or analyses. Since these papers are short (2-3 double-spaced pages), they offer an opportunity to try out arguments that might be made in the seminar paper, absent the commitment to develop them into a full paper. Response papers are due in the class meeting for a given week’s topic.

Seminar paper: The seminar paper should represent original research and should follow the formatting conventions of a major journal to which it might be submitted. For information on various formats, see recent issues of journals relevant to the seminar paper’s topic. Papers need not necessarily be submitted for publication to the journal for which they are written, but they must be *prepared* for submission by using the appropriate text and referencing styles. Paper topics must be approved by the instructor in advance, and students will have the opportunity to revise papers from optional (but recommended) drafts. Seminar papers are due on May 8.

Joint paper contribution: In addition to participating in discussions related to the development of a jointly-authored paper based on themes from the course, each seminar participant will be tasked with contributing in some way toward that paper's authorship. Further details on the paper and individual assignments related to it will be provided during the semester.

Grading: In addition, students are expected to attend all seminar meetings, having prepared for them by reading all required materials, and to actively participate in seminar discussion. Overall, then, the final grade will be calculated from the following weighted distribution:

Response papers (3)	15%
Seminar paper	50%
Joint paper contribution	10%
Participation	25%

Incompletes are available only under extraordinary circumstances and with instructor consent.

Texts: Four books have been adopted for the seminar and are available for purchased in the CU bookstore. Required texts are as follows:

Joan Cocks, *On Sovereignty and Other Political Delusions* (Bloomsbury, 2014). ISBN: 9781780933542.

Martha Nussbaum, *Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, Species Membership* (Harvard, 2007). ISBN: 9780674024106

Shalini Satkunanandan, *Extraordinary Responsibility: Politics beyond the Moral Calculus* (Cambridge, 2015). ISBN: 9781107443136.

Sarah Song, *Immigration and Democracy* (Oxford, 2018). ISBN: 0190909226.

Other required (and some recommended) texts will be made available online through the CU learning management system (Canvas), as indicated on the reading schedule, below.

University and course policies:

Disability accommodations: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documentation. Contact: 303.492.8671, <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>.

Religious observances: Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students needing to miss class or exams for religious observances must inform the instructor during the first two weeks of the semester. See full details: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom behavior: Students and faculty share responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which opinions are expressed. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the term so that I may appropriate update my records.

Discrimination and harassment: The CU-Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Honor code: All students of the CU-Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council. Students found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Further details on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> or <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>.

Seminar reading and discussion schedule:

Readings are organized by week and seminar topic below. Please read all listed texts by the start of each week’s seminar.

Jan 15	Introduction	no reading assignment
Jan 22	Justice, borders, and boundaries	Walzer, <i>Spheres of Justice</i> , ch. 2 Miller, “Justice and Boundaries” O’Neill, “Justice and Boundaries” Raworth, “A Safe and Just Space for Humanity” Scott, “Cities, People, and Language”
Jan 29	Justice and (dis)ability	<i>Frontiers of Justice</i> , chs. 1-3
Feb 5	International justice	<i>Frontiers of Justice</i> , chs. 4-5
Feb 12	Justice and nonhumans	<i>Frontiers of Justice</i> , chs. 6-7 Schlosberg, “Ecological Justice for the Anthropocene”
Feb 19	States and border control	<i>Immigration and Democracy</i> , chs. 1-4
Feb 26	Open borders	<i>Immigration and Democracy</i> , chs. 5-6 Carens, “Aliens and Citizens”
Mar 5	Implications	<i>Immigration and Democracy</i> , chs. 7-11 video chat with Sarah Song
Mar 12	Calculation and indirectness	<i>Extraordinary Responsibility</i> , Intro, chs. 1-3 Young, “Responsibility for Justice”
Mar 19	Calculable responsibility	<i>Extraordinary Responsibility</i> , chs. 4-5 video chat with Shalini Satkunanandan
Apr 2	Turning from morality	<i>Extraordinary Responsibility</i> , chs. 6-7, Conclusion
Apr 9	Sovereignty as concept	<i>On Sovereignty</i> , Intro, ch. 1
Apr 16	Politics of erasure	<i>On Sovereignty</i> , ch. 2 Buchanan, “Theories of Secession”
Apr 23	Sovereign freedom	<i>On Sovereignty</i> , ch. 3, conclusions video chat with Joan Cocks
Apr 30	Paper workshop	no reading assignment