

POL40004 Justice, Democracy and Difference

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	4 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2011, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: Semester 1, Parkville - Taught on campus.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: A 2-hour seminar per week. If enrolments exceed 35, the 2nd hour of the seminar may be split into 2 or 3 small classes. Total Time Commitment: 10
Prerequisites:	None
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	Politics and International Studies at Undergraduate level
Non Allowed Subjects:	166-416 Justice, Democracy and Difference
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Dr George Vasilev
Contact:	Prof. Robyn Eckersley r.eckersley@unimelb.edu.au
Subject Overview:	This subject provides a critical examination of contemporary debates about ideas of justice, democracy and the politics of difference. The subject critically explores both the major liberal approaches to justice alongside critiques of liberal approaches by communitarian, socialist, feminist, postmodern and radical ecological theorists. Students will be introduced to the different perspectives on justice in terms of their linkages and, in some cases, increasing convergence with different approaches to dealing with democracy and difference. Particular emphasis is given to the tensions between cosmopolitan versus communitarian approaches to ordering political life and the tensions between arguments for individual versus group/communal rights. The different perspectives on justice, democracy and difference are analysed and applied in relation to a range of contemporary political conflicts concerning race, ethnicity, class, gender, the environment and the multicultural state. Examples include political claims for the recognition of ethnic minority rights, the political recognition of religious, ethnic and/or gender difference, the special or weighted political representation or veto rights of ethnic minorities, the different political interpretations of, and priorities accorded to, the human rights agenda and claims for self-determination by indigenous peoples and national minorities.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # recognise and understand the major perspectives on justice in contemporary political thought (i.e., liberal, communitarian, socialist, feminist, postmodern, postcolonial and ecological). # be able to understand the linkages and, in some cases, increasing convergence between different perspectives on justice and different approaches to dealing with democracy and difference (or political participation and recognition), manifest in the increasing interest in free political communication or 'dialogic justice'. # be able to identify and comprehend the key points of agreement and disagreement between each perspective, including the tensions between cosmopolitan and communitarian approaches and the contested debate over the fairness of individual versus 'group' or 'communal' rights. # be able to relate the theoretical debates about justice, democracy and difference to contemporary political controversies, including political claims for the recognition of ethnic/cultural, religious, linguistic, gender and sexual difference, veto powers or special

	representation by ethnic minorities, the critique of universal human rights. and the case for self-determination and/or secession by indigenous peoples and national minorities.
Assessment:	An essay of 5000 words (100%) due during the examination period, OR two x 2,500 word essays, the first of which is due mid-semester and the second due during the examination period. Hurdle Requirement: Students are required to attend a minimum of 75% of classes in order to qualify to have their written work assessed. Students who fail to meet this hurdle requirement will be deemed ineligible to submit the final piece of assessment for this subject. Regular participation in class is required. Assessment submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at 2% per working day. In-class tasks missed without approval will not be marked. All pieces of written work must be submitted to pass this subject.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader will be available for purchase from the University Bookshop.
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # be able to apply research skills and critical methods to a field of inquiry. # have developed persuasive arguments on a given topic. # be able to communicate oral and written arguments and ideas effectively and articulately.
Related Course(s):	Master of Criminology (CWT) Master of Development Studies (Gender & Development) Master of Development Studies(CWT) Master of International Studies Master of Islamic Studies Master of Public Policy and Management (Coursework) Postgraduate Certificate in Arts (Public Policy and Management)
Related Majors/Minors/ Specialisations:	200 point program - full time over 18 months 200 point program - full time over 24 months Criminology Criminology Criminology Development Studies Development Studies Development Studies Development Studies Gender Studies Gender Studies Gender Studies International Politics International Studies Political Science Political Science Political Science Politics and International Studies Public Policy and Management Public Policy and Management Socio-Legal studies Socio-legal Studies Sustainable Cities, Sustainable Regions