This seminar will explore the topic of justice from a philosophical point of view, in the American criminal justice system, and in American politics and society more generally. Previous coursework in American politics, constitutional law, and/or political theory is helpful but is not required.

Expectations/requirements:

1. As this is a seminar, all students are expected to attend every session, to have done the reading, and to participate actively in discussions. Class participation will constitute .40 of your grade.

2. Students will take turns writing discussion questions and leading the class discussion. Questions should be emailed to me by 4 pm on the afternoon before the session. This will constitute .20 of your grade.

3. Each student will write a substantial term paper and present it in class; this will constitute .40 of your grade. This term paper can be used to gain entrance to the Senior honors program in Politics or as a capstone paper in GSFS. Minimum length: 12-15 pp.

Books are available for purchase at the Oberlin bookstore and are on reserve at Mudd. A few assigned chapters will be available on E-reserve (these are marked below with an asterisk).

Students are reminded to consult the College Honor Code, and any student with a documented disability should consult the instructor to arrange appropriate accommodation.

Feedback about the seminar is welcome throughout.

Class sessions and reading assignments:

T 2/3. Introduction
Th 2/5. The Lifeboat case. Sandel, p. 3

T 2/10. Case study: Powell, *Framing Innocence*

Th 2/12. Injustice vs. Misfortune. Shklar excerpt*

T 2/17. Responsibility for Justice. Young excerpt*


T 2/24. Stuntz, Ch 6-10

Th 2/26. Discussion of term paper topics

T 3/3. (continued)


Th 3/12. Markets and Morals. Sandel, Ch V

T 3/17. Affirmative Action. Sandel, Ch IX

Th 3/19. Ability and Disability. Sandel, Ch XI

T 3/31. Brief progress reports on term papers


T 4/7. Types of Injustice. Fraser excerpt*

Th 4/9. Same-Sex Marriage. Sandel, Ch XIV

T 4/14. Just Marriage? Shanley (all)

Th 4/16. Justice, Loss, and Memory. Schulman, excerpt*


T 4/23 and after. Term paper presentations