



# AMBROSE

## **PH 312 Justice Fall 2009**

Time: Tuesday & Thursday Friday 8:15 – 9:30  
Location: Room L2082

Instructor Information:  
***Kenneth M. Nickel (MAR, MSc, PhD ABD)***  
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### **Course Description**

The course consists of a broad analysis of the question, 'what is justice?' The ancient understanding that justice is giving to each person her due will be the point of departure. Examining what exactly is "one's due" will be a predominant theme throughout the course. A thorough survey of the understandings of and distinctions between corrective, distributive, and retributive justice will be undertaken.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Students should learn the classic and contemporary perspectives on the core concepts related to justice: desert and responsibility.
2. The Aristotelian claim is that justice consists of two independent aspects: justice in transactions and justice in holdings. On this account, retributive justice cannot coherently stand alone, calling into question the reasonableness of punishment absent more fundamental considerations. Students should develop their own thoughtful analysis of this enduring problem.
3. Each student should appreciate how philosophizing about desert, merit, responsibility, restitution, punishment, etc., can inform, shape, and deepen one's reflections upon metaphysical justice.

## Textbook and Other Course Readings

Pojman, Louis P., and Owen McLeod, eds. *What Do We Deserve? A Reader on Justice and Desert*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999.

- Other readings will be provided in class.

## Course Requirements

1. **Midterm Examination** 20%
  - October 22<sup>rd</sup>
2. **Seminar Presentation** 10%
  - A separate handout regarding topics and guidelines will be provided.
3. **Research Paper** 30%
  - Due: December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM
  - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be provided.
4. **Final Exam** 40%
  - Date: December 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM
  - Students must pass the final exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
  - Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

**Grading:** The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	4.0		90-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	85-89 %
A-	3.7		80-84 %
B+	3.3		77-79 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	73-76 %
B-	2.7		70-72 %
C+	2.3		67-69 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-66 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		55-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-54 %
F	0.0	Failure	49 < %

## Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission and to withdraw from course and receive tuition refund is September 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to withdraw from courses or change to audit without academic penalty is November 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Important Notes

- **Students are responsible to check their Ambrose e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.**
- **Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other non-essential technology is prohibited.**
- **Lap top computers, when not used exclusively for taking class notes, are often a distraction to classmates and even the individual user. Their use is discouraged.**
- **Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited. Violators will be asked to leave the class. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Deans Office.**
- **Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time. Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates. As well, they are often deleterious to a student's performance in the class.**
- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*
- *Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).*
- *Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*
- *Students are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus for their records.*