

J. Wolff 2000-01

Dept of Philosophy

UCL

Egalitarianism

Course Outline

The purpose of the course is to look at some of the key debates within recent egalitarian thought. Attention will be focused on the following issues:

- a) What should an egalitarian try to equalise: need satisfaction; preference satisfaction; happiness; resources; capabilities?
- b) Is equality the right goal? Or should it be priority or sufficiency?
- c) What is the role of responsibility in determining just outcomes?
- d) How should fairness be balanced against other values.

1: October 5th Dworkin and Equality:

Ronald Dworkin, 'What is Equality Part 2: Equality of Resources', *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 1981: Reprinted in Dworkin's *Sovereign Virtue*

Abridgement in M. Rosen and J. Wolff *Political Thought* pp. 248-255

W. Kymlicka, *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, pp. 76-90 (Summary of Dworkin)

2: October 12th Responses to Dworkin

Richard Arneson 'Equality and Equal Opportunity for Welfare' *Philosophical Studies* 1989 and in L. Pojman and R. Westmoreland (ed) *Equality*

G.A. Cohen, 'On the Currency of Egalitarian Justice', *Ethics* 1989.

Ronald Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue* Ch 7

October 19th Sufficiency and Priority

Harry Frankfurt, 'Equality as a Moral Idea', *Ethics* 1987 (reprinted in his *The Importance of What We Care About*, and in L. Pojman and R. Westmoreland (ed) *Equality*)

Derek Parfit, 'Equality and Priority', in *Ideals of Equality* ed A. Mason

October 26th Sen on Basic Capabilities

Amartya Sen 'Equality of What?' in his *Choice, Welfare and Measurement*, and in R. Goodin and P. Pettit (ed) *Contemporary Political Philosophy*

November 2nd Week 5: Equality and Respect

Elizabeth Anderson, 'What is the Point of Equality?' *Ethics* 1999

Jonathan Wolff, 'Fairness, Respect and the Egalitarian Ethos', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1998

Supplementary Reading:

General Background

John Baker, *Arguing for Equality*.

Bruce Landesman, 'Egalitarianism' *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 1983.

Thomas Nagel, 'Equality' in his *Mortal Questions*.

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* esp s.77.

Bernard Williams, 'The Idea of Equality' in his *Problems of the Self*.

Critics of Equality

David Hume, *Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Section III, Part 1.

J.R. Lucas, 'Against Equality', *Philosophy* 1965.

- 'Against Equality Again', *Philosophy* 1977.

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia* pp. 149-64, 232-239.

Contemporary Issues

John Baker, 'An Egalitarian Case For Basic Income', in P. Van Parijs (ed) *Arguing for Basic Income*.

Brian Barry, 'Chance, Choice, and Justice', in his *Liberty and Justice*.

Norman Daniels, 'Equality of What: Welfare, Resources or Capabilities?' *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*. (supplement) 1990.

Ronald Dworkin, 'What is Equality? I. Equality of Welfare', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1981. (Reprinted in his *Sovereign Virtue*)

Ronald Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue*

Will Kymlicka, *Introduction to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, esp. Ch 1 &3.

Colin McLeod, *Liberalism Justice and Markets*

Thomas Nagel, *Equality and Partiality*.

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*

John Rawls, *Political Liberalism* Ch 5.

John Rawls, 'Social Unity and Primary Goods', in A. Sen and B. Williams (ed) *Utilitarianism and Beyond*, and in his *Collected Papers*.

John Roemer, *Egalitarian Perspectives*

T.M. Scanlon, 'Preference and Urgency', *Journal of Philosophy* 1975.

Amartya Sen, *Inequality Reexamined*

Hillel Steiner, 'Choice and Circumstance' in A. Mason (ed) *Ideals of Equality*

Phillipe Van Parijs, *What (if anything) Can Justify Capitalism?*

Phillipe Van Parijs, 'Why Surfers Should Be Fed', *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1991.

Michael Walzer, *Spheres of Justice*