Fall 1996
LIBERTY, EQUALITY, AND THE POLITICS OF DIFFERENCE
Philosophy 726-01
Tuesday 1:15-3:4, ICC 234

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What is the moral and political significance of our differences (e.g., of gender, race, culture, vulnerability, or need) in a broadly liberal context committed to toleration, inclusion, and peaceful pluralism? How, if at all, are our differences to figure in standards of justice? Does taking adequate account of difference in our social and political arrangements place traditional liberal commitments to liberty and equality in jeopardy? In addressing these questions, we will look, among other things, at traditional liberal conceptions of liberty and equality. We will examine recent criticisms of liberal neutrality and assess a number of proposals for reform, focusing in particular on theories of "political recognition". We will also devote several weeks to the study of fundamental epistemological and psychological challenges facts of difference present for morality and politics more broadly.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Several short reflection papers: 2 pages
Term paper: 15-20 pages
Active, informed participation in class discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Martha Minow, MAKING ALL THE DIFFERENCE: INCLUSION AND AMERICAN LAW.
Cornell 1990.
Iris Marion Young, JUSTICE AND THE POLITICS OF DIFFERENCE. Princeton 1990.

Additional readings marked "(RES)" below will be available on the shelf for our course in the Philosophy Department Mailroom (duplicates also in the Bioethics Library in Healy 101).

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:
I will keep a running file of recommended articles on the reserve shelf in New North.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS*
*In addition to the readings that follow, please read through Sandra Bem's *The Lenses of Gender* on your own as background for class discussion.

Sept. 3  Introduction

LIBERTY AND EQUALITY IN LIBERAL THOUGHT

10  Isaiah Berlin, "On Liberty" (RES)
    Judith Shklar, "The Liberalism of Fear" (RES)

17  Ronald Dworkin, "Liberalism" (RES)
    John Rawls, "Fundamental Ideas" and selected pages from *Political Liberalism* and
    *A Theory of Justice* (RES)

SEEDS OF CHALLENGE

24  Iris Marion Young, "The Distributive Paradigm"
    "Five Faces of Oppression"

    recommended: Marilyn Frye, "Oppression" (RES)
    Sandra Bartky, "On Psychological Oppression" (RES)

Oct. 1  Margaret Walker, "Partial Consideration" (RES)
    Iris Marion Young, "The Ideal of Impartiality"
    Marilyn Friedman, "The Impracticality of Impartiality" (RES)

THE DILEMMA OF DIFFERENCE

8  Martha Minow, "The Dilemma of Difference"
    "Sources of Difference"
    Catharine MacKinnon, "Difference and Dominance: On Sex Discrimination" (RES)

    recommended: William James, "On a Certain Blindness in Human Beings"

ENCOUNTERING THE OTHER

The Arrogant Eye and Loving Perception

15  Review Walker, "Partial Consideration"
    Marilyn Frye, "In and Out of Harm's Way: Arrogance and Love" (RES)
    Maria Lugones, "Playfulness, "World"-Travelling," and Loving Perception" (RES)
    bell hooks, "Representations of Whiteness"

Erasure and Subordination

22  Iris Marion Young, "The Scaling of Bodies"
    Kimberle Crenshaw, "Beyond Racism and Misogyny: Black Feminism and 2 Live Crew" (RES)
"Eating the Other"

29 bell hooks, "Eating the Other"
"The Oppositional Gaze"

recommended: "Madonna"

THE "POLITICS OF DIFFERENCE" AND BEYOND

Assimilation vs. Democratic Cultural Pluralism

Nov. 5 Iris Marion Young, "Social Movements and the Politics of Difference"
"City Life and Difference"
Martha Minow, "Ways Out"
parts of "The Social-Relations Approach"

recommended: Sylvia A. Law, "Rethinking Sex and the Constitution" (RES)

The "Politics of Recognition"

12 Amy Gutmann, ed. Multiculturalism and "The Politics of Recognition"
bell hooks, "Loving Blackness as Political Resistance"

recommended: Axel Honneth, "Patterns of Intersubjective Recognition: Love, Rights, and Solidarity" (RES)
"Personal Identity and Disrespect: The Violation of the Body, the Denial of Rights and the Denigration of Ways of Life" (RES)
"Intersubjective Conditions for Personal Integrity: A Formal Conception of Ethical Life" (RES)

19 Amy Gutmann, ed. Multiculturalism and "The Politics of Recognition"
Will Kymlicka, "Liberalism in Culturally Plural Societies" (RES)
"The Value of Cultural Membership" (RES)
"Equality for Minority Cultures" (RES)
"Minority Rights and the Liberal Tradition" (RES)

26 NO CLASS

"Discourse" Models of Political Legitimacy

Dec. 3 Seyla Benhabib, parts of Situating the Self
Jurgen Habermas, "Reconciliation Through the Public Use of Reason: Remarks on John Rawls's Political Liberalism"
Cheshire Calhoun review of Benhabib

Challenges and Aspirations
10 (make-up class)
Iris Marion Young, "Communication and the Other: Beyond Deliberative Democracy" (RES)
Amy Gutmann, "The Challenge of Multiculturalism in Political Ethics" (RES)