

Boston College
Department of Economics

Distributive Justice

Spring 2000

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Lectures Tuesdays 4:30–7:00, Cushing 335.

Office Hours Tue 7–8 if there is a lecture on this day, or by appointment.

Text Roemer, John: Theories of Distributive Justice.

Readings There is a huge body of literature (starting in the 18C, if not earlier) regarding distributive justice. The text has a long (and good) list of references. Occasionally, I will refer you to some of these articles.

Grades There will be one midterm, on Feb. 29. Its weight will be 35% of the final grade. *You have to attend the exam.* If you know in advance that you will not be able to take it, come and see me as early as possible. If you do not take the exam and you do not have a just reason, your grade for that exam will be zero. If you take the exam, its grade, whatever it is, will not be waived.

There will be five problem sets, for which you'll get 15% (see below). There will be no final exam. Instead, you will have to write a paper (of about 3000–4000 words) on a topic of your choice. In this paper you will analyze a concrete problem of distributive justice using tools you learned in class. The topic may be contemporary, historical, or even fictional. You must get an approval for the topic by March 15. Further instructions will be distributed towards the middle of the term.

Homework There will be 5 problem sets. You have to solve and submit all of them. You'll get 3 points for each submitted set, provided you answered at least half of it. You have to submit each problem set one week after the day it was circulated.