Our central concern in this course is the concept of equality as it figures in contemporary political philosophy. More specifically, we will be examining the role of equality in liberal theories of distributive justice. The course will be taught as a seminar. Students will be expected to attend class regularly, and to participate in the general discussion. Each student will also be expected to make a short presentation, of about 20 minutes, introducing the reading for one session. This presentation is a course requirement, but it will not be graded. The main basis of evaluation, worth 80% of the final grade, will be a paper of approximately 20 pages in length (typed, doubled-spaced, normal margins and font). There will also be a general participation grade of 20%. The baseline for the participation grade will be the paper grade. The former will only depart downwards from the latter in cases of egregious non-participation, and will only depart upwards in cases of particularly noteworthy and meritorious contributions to class discussion throughout the term.

The only required text for the course is G.A. Cohen, Self-Ownership, Freedom and Equality (Cambridge, 1995). Since we will only be looking at this work at the very end of the course, it has not yet been ordered into the bookstore.

A list of suggested essay topics will be distributed at a later point in the semester, but these are not mandatory. A student who wishes to write on a topic not on the list should, however, consult with the instructor first.

The class meets on Monday from 4:05 to 5:55 p.m., in Furman Hall room 316. Professor Perry's office is room 504 in Vanderbilt Hall, and his telephone number is (212) 998-6753. Office hours will be determined at a later date.

I. **Rawls' Theory of Justice**


II. **Equality and Priority**


III. The Libertarian Challenge


IV. The Metric of Equality


V. "Luck-Egalitarian" Theories of Distributive Justice


VI. Another Response to Libertarianism