

LECTURE / DISCUSSION / DEBATE
EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

Terms and concepts to know:

Formal equality	Moral equality
Equality before the law	Equal liberty
Equal access	Material equality
Equality of opportunity	Equality of outcome
Radical anti-egalitarianism	'Welfarist' vs. 'resourcist' equality
Liberal egalitarianism (Rawls)	Libertarian egalitarianism (Nozick)
Marxist egalitarianism (Marx)	Distributive justice

Study and discussion questions:

1. Do freedom and equality have to be in conflict? Can they be reconciled? If so, how are they?
2. What are 'positional' goods? Are there valid positional goods?
3. Is equality of opportunity desirable? Why or why not?
4. Should human beings attempt to make everyone happy?
5. Do people *deserve* to keep the fruits of their labor?
6. If you are as well off as you could possibly be, can you have any grounds for objecting that other people are better off than you?
7. Should the state reward men and women for bringing up children, and doing housework?
8. Discussions of democracy do not usually address the worksite. Why does Bernard think it is important to include workplace relations of power when we consider the foundations of democracy? Analyze her statement that "[u]nionists cannot leave politics alone, because politics will not leave unions alone."
9. According to Hochschild, what are the key tenets of success in the American Dream, and in what ways might the American definition of success be considered narrow?
10. Describe Jack Smith's thesis examining the plight of the 'middle class'. Is it time to abandon this language and declare ourselves 'working class'?

Readings:

Hoffman and Graham: Chapters 3 and 4 and WEB.

Video:

The Lottery of Birth.