**GPAD2075 Selected Topics in Political Theory I**

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**Topic: Global Economic Justice**

**Course Description**

With the advent and deepening of globalization, global justice has become a prominent topic in political philosophy in recent years. This course focuses on one of the central threads in the contemporary global justice debate: global economic justice.

This course is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 examines how the principles commonly used to assess the economic justice of domestic institutions might bear on our evaluation of institutions that stand at the global level. The questions addressed include: Is there a sharp distinction between the requirements of economic justice at the domestic and global level? If so, what morally significant differences between the two contexts might account for this? Works examined in this part include those by John Rawls, his cosmopolitan critics and the non-cosmopolitans who put emphasis on the distinct kind of coercion and reciprocal interaction that is present *only* at the state level.

Part 2 focuses on one specific problem associated with economic globalization: global poverty. The questions addressed include: Do the massive acute deprivations that exist in our affluent world constitute an injustice? Do ordinary citizens of affluent societies like Hong Kong have obligations to address severe poverty that are more stringent than humanitarian ones? If so, how might they be grounded? Works examined will include those, among others, by Thomas Pogge, Peter Singer, and Mathias Risse.

Through tackling these philosophical and practical issues, this course aims at helping students develop a principled view of global justice that aligns with one’s justice assessments at the domestic level, their ability to apply it to existing institutions at both the domestic and global level, and to reflect on the practical bearing institutional injustices have on the moral quality of their life.