Ethics and Justice in the Novel

Nigel De Juan Hatton

Joint Ph. D. Candidate, Program in Modern Thought & Literature and The Graduate Program in the Humanities, Stanford University
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University Chair:
Ted Glasser, Communication

Committee Chair:
Eamonn Callan, Education and Modern Thought & Literature

Committee Members (Stanford University):
Michele Elam, English, Modern Thought & Literature, and Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity
Shelley Fisher Fishkin, English, Modern Thought & Literature, and American Studies
Andrea Nightingale, Classics, Philosophy, Comparative Literature, and Graduate Program in the Humanities

Previous education:
M.A. Modern Thought & Literature, Stanford University
M.A. Latin American Studies; and
M.J. (Journalism), University of California, Berkeley
M.F.A., Creative Writing, University of San Francisco
B.A. English, Virginia Tech

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1. Moral Theory

Plato (428-347 BC), Gorgias

Plato, The Republic

Aristotle (384-347 BC), Nichomachean Ethics, 10.9

Cicero (106-43 BC), On Duties
“Book One: Moral Goodness”

Saint Augustine (354-430), *Confessions*

Boethius (480-524), *The Consolation of Philosophy*

Aquinas (1225-1274), *Nature and Grace*

  “The Justice and Mercy of God”
  “Of Despair”

Thomas More (1478-1535), *Utopia*

Adam Smith (1723-1790), *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*

  Section II “Of Justice and Beneficence”
  Chapter XV, “Of Man”
  Chapter XVI, “Of Persons, Authors, and things Personated”

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804), *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*

Georg Hegel (1770-1831), *Introduction to the Philosophy of History*

  “Four: History in its Development”

John Stuart Mill (1806-1873), *Utilitarianism*

  “On the Connection Between Justice and Utility”

Karl Marx (1818-1883), “Theses on Feuerbach


Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900), *The Birth of Tragedy*

John Rawls (1921 – 2002), *A Theory of Justice*

Iris Marion Young (1949-2006), “Five Faces of Oppression”

Iris Marion Young, “Political Responsibility and Structural Injustice”

Cora Diamond, “The Importance of Being Human”
Cora Diamond, “Losing Your Concepts”

Robert Pippin, Henry James and Modern Moral Life

2. Aesthetics

W.E.B. Du Bois, “Negro Art” (1904)

Du Bois, “Negro Art and Literature” (1924)

Du Bois, “Criteria of Negro Art” (1926)

James Weldon Johnson, “Preface” to Book of Negro Poetry

Alain Locke, “The New Negro”

Zora Neale Hurston, “How it feels to be colored me”

George Schuyler, “The Negro-Art Hokum”

Marita Bonner, “On Being Young—a Woman—and Colored”

Langston Hughes, “The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain”

Addison Gayle, “The Black Aesthetic”

Audre Lorde, “Poetry is not a luxury”

Amiri Baraka, “The Revolutionary Theatre”

June Jordan, “Poem about my rights”

Larry Neal, “The Black Arts Movement”

Richard Wright, “Blueprint for Negro Writing”

Ralph Ellison, “‘Twentieth Century Fiction and the Black Mask of Humanity”

Ellison, “The World and the Jug”

Ellison, “Society, Morality and the Novel”

Ellison, “The Novel as a Function of American Democracy”

James Baldwin, “The Creative Process”
James Baldwin, “Nothing Personal”

August Wilson, “The Ground on Which I Stand”

August Wilson, “Why I Want A Black Director”

August Wilson, Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom


3. The Novel

M.M. Bakhtin, “Discourse in the Novel”

Walter Benjamin, “The Storyteller”

Wolfgang Iser, “The Reading Process: A Phenomenological Approach”

Menachem Brinker, “Theme and Interpretation”

Alex Woloch, “The Illiad’s Two Wars,” from The One Vs. The Many: Minor Characters and the Space of the Protagonist in the Novel

Alex Woloch, “Characterization and Distribution”


Winfried Fluck, “Fiction and Justice”

4. Literature and Philosophy

Sophocles, Antigone

Sophocles, Oedipus at Colonus

Sophocles, Philoctetes

Euripides, Medea
Foley, “Medea’s Divided Self”

Hegel, from Philosophy of Right (Hegel’s reading of Antigone)

Hegel, from Aesthetics: Lectures on fine art, volume II (Hegel’s reading of Antigone)

Hegel, from Phenomenology of Spirit (Hegel’s reading of Antigone)

Plato, Gorgias

Plato, Phaedrus

Plato, Symposium

Plato, Republic


Aristotle, Poetics

Aristotle, from Nicomachean Ethics

Kant, The Critique of Aesthetic Judgment

Nietzsche, The Birth of Tragedy

Scarry, Elaine. The Body in Pain

Scarry, Elaine. On Beauty


Rorty, Richard. Contingency, Irony and Solidarity

Nussbaum, Martha. Poetic Justice: The Literary Imagination and Public Life

Nussbaum, Martha. from The Fragility of Goodness: Luck and Ethics in Greek Tragedy and Philosophy

Nussbaum, Martha. Love’s Knowledge: Essays on Literature and Philosophy

5. Human Rights
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Mary Ann Glendon, *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Lynn Hunt, *The Invention of Human Rights*

Henry David Thoreau, “Slavery in Massachusetts” (1854)

Mark Twain, “Concerning the Jews”

Mark Twain, “The United States of Lyncherdom”

Mark Twain, “King Leopold’s Soliloquy”

Mark Twain, “The War Prayer”


6. **Justice in the Novel**

Frederick Douglass, *The Heroic Slave* (1852)

Herman Melville, *Benito Cereno* (1856)

Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884)

Stephen Crane, *The Monster* (1898)

Henry James, *The Ambassadors* (1903)

William Faulkner, *Absalom, Absalom* (1936)

Ann Petry, *The Street* (1947)
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (1952)
Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952)
James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room* (1956)
Leon Uris, *Exodus* (1958)

**Transnational American Studies**

Fishkin, Shelley Fisher. “Crossroads of Cultures: The Transnational Turn in American Studies”
José David Saldivar  Border Matters: Remapping American Cultural Studies
Donald Pease, “Postnational Politics and American Studies”