

What is “Justice” in the 21st Century? A Podcast¹

Overview

We have seen in Aeschylus’s *Oresteia*, Plato’s *Republic* and *Apology*, and Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* that justice has been a central concern throughout the recorded West. The ancient Greeks were deeply concerned with understanding what justice is philosophically, theologically, and practically, as well as how it plays out individually and across institutions. These are concerns we can easily see reflected in PLU in particular and in contemporary society at large. Our Greek texts raise many questions about the nature of justice and – in some cases – offer solutions or perspectives about how best to achieve justice. This assignment asks that you choose one of the perspectives on justice that these texts raise and probe into its relevance for contemporary society using critical thinking, reading, and writing.

The Task

As a group, choose **one perspective on justice** that **one** of the texts we have read this semester has raised for you, a perspective that you **all** agree adds value to our conversations **today**. This perspective has to be tied *clearly* to the issues raised by the ancient text. That is, the perspective has to emerge from the discussions, situations, examples, or problems illustrated in the text. Identify a contemporary novel, film, TV series, play, or other cultural artifact or a social, political, or economic issue which you believe either (1) raises a similar perspective if not identical perspective on justice or (2) raises a question/problem that could beneficially be looked at using the ancient perspective on justice you have chosen.

Write a script and record a twelve-minute podcast where you:

1. Introduce your audience to the ancient text, the specific discussion, and the perspective on justice that it raises.
2. Introduce your audience to the contemporary cultural artifact or issue that, you will argue, raises a similar perspective *or* would benefit from reading through the ancient perspective. Be sure to create a clear connection between the ancient text and the cultural artifact or issue and to avoid flattening the complexities and specificities of each one.
3. Discuss the relevance of applying this ancient perspective today: Whom does it impact? Who benefits from this perspective remaining unconsidered/unapplied or even unacknowledged? What possible resolutions to problems does this perspective on justice offer today?

¹ I am grateful to Prof. Adela Ramos (PLU, English) for developing and sharing her podcast assignment on which this version is based.

Assignment Requirements:

1. Write a 1000-1500 word script (12-minute podcast) that is carefully crafted and well-organized where you clearly introduce your listeners to the ancient text, tell the story of the perspective on justice the text asks, apply it to a contemporary cultural artifact or issue, and develop a discussion of the implications of that perspective on the contemporary artifact or issue.
2. Your discussion should include **each group member's viewpoint**. That is, every group member's voice and opinion must be heard during the discussion session of your podcast. The podcast should last 12 minutes, including audio transitions and sound effects. Each member of the group should speak for 3 minutes (not continuously necessarily).
3. Use the technology and research resources creatively and rigorously to produce a high-quality podcast that is the result of careful reading and research as well as editing and execution.
 - Gail Egbers from the library will come to show you how to use the Library's resources for your project.
 - Jenna Stoeber will come to teach you how to use Audacity.
4. Clarity is key. You must craft your script with an audience in mind, ***making sure that your sentences are meant to be heard, not read.*** The degree and quality of editing of the script will be evaluated—just as I grade your revision of critical papers—and will impact the final outcome of your podcast.
5. Follow the guidelines provided by Jenna Stoeber as closely as possible given your access to, for instance, carpeted rooms. Your final podcast should be as free of editing mistakes and noise as possible.

Technological Requirements:

- Download Audacity.
- Rent a snowball microphone from the Instructional Technologies office in Mortvedt Library.
- Follow the guidelines provided in Jenna Stoeber's PowerPoint.

Other requirements:

- Your podcast should be uploaded to the podcast catcher on Sakai by the due date.
- Your script must be in hard copy form and you must turn it in on the day of your presentation.

Project Groups:

Presentation Date:

Group 1:

Group 2:

Group 3:

Group 4:

Podcast Discussion Schedule:

Podcasts will be available on Sakai as of Saturday, April 16th

Download rubric and take notes for class discussion

Dates. (Same as presentation date?)