

Lecture 21 Reading Questions

“Justice & Basic Income”

Readings:

“Brief Comments on Leisure Time.”

Section 53 in “Justice as Fairness: A Restatement” by John Rawls.

“A Basic Income For All” by Philippe Van Parijs.

(1) How does Rawls propose to deal with the problem of the Malibu surfer?

(2) What does Van Parijs mean by a “universal basic income”? How does a UBI differ from traditional social security and welfare payments? Why is a UBI preferable to a “negative income tax,” according to Van Parijs?

(3) Why does justice require a UBI, according to Van Parijs? Do you find his argument persuasive?

(4) How does Van Parijs respond the objection that a UBI “gives the undeserving poor something for nothing”? Do you find the response persuasive?

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