

## Undergraduate Research Opportunity

### PROJECT

#### Political Philosophy Research Experience

Matt Schuler

Philosophy

Hours required p/week:	3
Credits anticipated:	1

The principal objective of this project is to offer research support for an ongoing project within a narrow corner of political philosophy. Specifically, it concerns John Rawls' use of the concept of reflective equilibrium in his seminal work, "A Theory of Justice." I have developed an argument that although something quite like his theory may be the correct theory of justice -- and although reflective equilibrium is indispensable to normative theory more broadly -- certain structural features of Rawls' framework leave no role whatsoever for reflective equilibrium to play within it. The project's goal is primarily to conduct a literature review on the use of reflective equilibrium within Rawls' theory of justice and to correctly cite sources that the student identifies as relevant (following discussion of these sources together).

TEMPE

ONLINE

### STUDENT

#### Research assistant's duties:

Duties will consist primarily of conducting a comprehensive literature review of the use of the concept of "reflective equilibrium," specifically as John Rawls employs it in "A Theory of Justice." The research assistant will discuss with their professor sources that the research assistant identifies as relevant, and once a list of sources to be cited has been narrowed down, the research assistant will (time permitting) aid in the citation of these sources within a 30-40 page essay (the bulk of which has already been written).

#### Required skills or qualifications:

The primary skill necessary to execute this research is the ability to scour databases for journal articles that contribute meaningfully to the project's current stage of completion.

#### Skills student will acquire:

Students will acquire one of the most fundamental research skills within the field of philosophy: the ability to identify sources (within the existent literature on a narrow philosophical topic) that are relevant to a specific philosophical thesis. (Time permitting, the student will also acquire the ability to correctly cite these sources within a philosophical text.) In the course of doing so, the student will also gain exposure to the machinations of what is arguably the most important theory of justice in the 20th century.