MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
LIBERALISM, THE NATION STATE, AND RELIGION
POLITICAL SCIENCE 316
FALL 2011

Class schedule
8/23  Introduction: the many faces of liberalism
      Alan Wolfe, *The Future of Liberalism*, 3-29

8/25  Hobbes’ search for certainty: on perpetual motion and “a war of all men against all men”
      Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 1-47; 57-63

8/30  “the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short” and “the liberty of subjects”
      Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 74-145

9/1   Class cancelled: read Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 219-233 on the powers and limits of sovereignty

9/6   Modernity’s problem with religion: the disorder of sectarianism
      Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 63-74; 190-203; 397-410; 521-539

     **THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

9/8   *Is Hobbes a liberal or an absolutist?*
      J. Judd Owen, “The Tolerant Leviathan,” 130-148 in *Polity*

     **CLASS DEBATE**

9/12  **MICRO-ESSAY #1 DUE in class**

9/13  What is Hobbes trying to do with religion?
      Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 63-74 (again)
      J. B. Schneewind, *The Invention of Autonomy*, 82-100

9/15  *Does Hobbes intend to reform or replace Christianity?*

     **CLASS DEBATE**

9/19  **MICRO-ESSAY #2 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM**

9/20  Keep your force off my conscience
      Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, 113-129

9/22  Not skeptical pragmatism but ethical rationalism
      Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, 129-153
      Susan Mendus, “Introduction,” 1-9 in *Justifying Toleration*

     **THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

9/27  Locke’s toleration: neither a child of doubt nor a support for pluralism
      Alex Tuckness, “Rethinking the Intolerant Locke,” 288-298 in *American Journal of Political Science*
9/29  Is Locke’s approach to toleration defensible today?
Judith Shklar, “The Liberalism of Fear,” 3-20 in Political Thought and Political Thinkers
Anthony Marx, “Superimposing Democratic Inclusion on Forgotten Exclusions,” 165-189 in Faith in Nation
CLASS DEBATE

10/3  MICRO-ESSAY #3 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

10/4  Locke on liberty, slavery, property, and the origin and end of government
Locke, The Second Treatise on Government, 1-66

10/6  Locke on property: the impact of Lockean arguments on indigenous claims to land
Jacob Levy, "Blood and Soil, Place or Property: Liberalism, Land and Ethnicity," 197-221 in The Multiculturalism of Fear
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

10/11  Locke’s theory of consent as a theory of political obligation
A. John Simmons, Moral Principles and Political Obligation, 57-95

10-13  Is Locke's consent personally granted or automatically conveyed?
Hanna Pitkin, “Obligation and Consent I,” 990-999 in American Political Science Review
CLASS DEBATE

10/17  MICRO-ESSAY #4 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

10/18  Rousseau on interest and justice, force and right, natural and civil liberty, and the Legislator
Rousseau, The Social Contract, 16-48

10/20  The general will and the government
Rousseau, The Social Contract, 49-84
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

10/25  Is negative liberty necessary and sufficient? Yes
Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty,” 118-154 in Four Essays on Liberty

10/27  Is negative liberty sufficient? No
Charles Taylor, “What is Wrong with Negative Liberty?” 175-193 in The Idea of Freedom
James Oakes, “What’s Wrong with Negative Liberty,” 79-82 in Law and Social Inquiry
CLASS DEBATE

10/31  MICRO-ESSAY #5 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

11/1  Rousseau’s critique of civilized humanity
Rousseau, First Discourse, 30-74
Arthur Melzer, The Natural Goodness of Man, 59-68

11/3  The contradictions of civilization and Rousseau’s solutions
Rousseau, Emile, 48-82
Arthur Melzer, The Natural Goodness of Man, 89-113
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
11/8  Kant’s celebration of enlightenment and free inquiry
Immanuel Kant, *An Answer to the Question: ‘What is Enlightenment?’* 54-60 in *Kant’s Political Writings*

11/10  *Should liberals support genetic enhancement?*
Michael Sandel, *The Case Against Perfection*, 63-100
Julian Savulescu, *The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics*, 516-535

CLASS DEBATE

11/14  MICRO-ESSAY #6 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

11/15  Nationalism: modern but not necessarily liberal
Ronald Beiner, “Introduction,” 1-17 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Charles Taylor, “Nationalism and Modernity,” 219-245 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

11/17  Rousseau on peoplehood and religion

THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

11/22  Are we national animals?
John Dunn, “Nationalism,” 27-45 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Wayne Norman, “Theorizing Nationalism (Normatively),” 51-65 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

11/24  THANKSGIVING BREAK

11/29  *Is liberal civic nationalism a coherent ideal? Yes*
Bernard Yack, “The Myth of the Civic Nation,” 103-118 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Bhikhu Parekh, “The Incoherence of Nationalism,” 295-324 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

12/1  *Is liberal civic nationalism coherent? No*
Alan Wolfe, *The Future of liberalism*, 93-125
Judith Lichtenberg, “How Liberal Can Nationalism Be?” 167-184 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

CLASS DEBATE

12/2  MICRO-ESSAY #7 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

12/6  FINAL EXAM 1:15-3:15PM

Course requirements
The following texts are required of all students. They are on sale at the IWU bookstore.

The following articles and selections from books are held on e-reserve at the Ames Library website. If you have a laptop, please consider downloading them to your desktop and bringing the computer to class so that we may have a few texts available. The password is ‘theory’—all lower case.


**Social contract**

Students are required to complete seven micro-essays (2-3 pages)—the lowest grade is dropped. Students are also required to revise at least one micro-essay (see process below). No student who misses as many as eight class sessions, for whatever reason, shall receive a passing grade. After three absences, the class participation grade begins to be lowered.

- 60% micro-essays (10% each; lowest grade dropped)
- 25% final exam
- 15% class participation (including seven three questions classes and seven class debates)

Because this is a writing intensive class, every student should revise at least one micro-essay. The revision process is as follows: *Students must visit me during office hours with their essay, and then visit me again with a draft of their revision before handing in their final version*. Revision grades will be averaged with the original grade for the final grade on the assignment. All revisions must be handed in to me on or before the final class session (December 1).

**Office hours**
CLA 251 556-3126
TTH 4-5; W 9-11; 1-2
Homepage: http://www.iwu.edu/~jsimeone (All assignments will be posted on my webpage.)