MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
LIBERALISM, THE NATION STATE, AND RELIGION
POLITICAL SCIENCE 316
FALL 2018

Class schedule
9-28 Introduction: review syllabus; get acquainted; the many faces of liberalism

9-30 Definitions of liberalism and Hobbes’ “perpetual and restless desire of power after power”
Alan Wolfe, The Future of Liberalism, 3-29
Hobbes, Leviathan, 1-35; 57-63

9-4 “the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short” and “the liberty of subjects”
Hobbes, Leviathan, 74-145

9-6 On the powers and limits of sovereignty: “not to restrain people from harmless liberty”
Hobbes, Leviathan, 219-233

9-11 Hobbes’s problem with religion: the disorder of sectarianism
Hobbes, Leviathan, 63-74; 190-203; 397-410; 521-539
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

9-13 CLASS DEBATE: Is Hobbes a liberal or an absolutist?
Leo Strauss, The Political Philosophy of Hobbes, 59-70
J. Judd Owen, “The Tolerant Leviathan,” 130-148 in Polity

9-17 MICRO-ESSAY #1 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

9-18 Hobbes’ gift to international relations: international anarchy and no morality but national self interest
Charles Beitz, Political Theory and International Relations, 12-14, 27-66

9-20 The dilemma of open borders: offending civic membership, equal moral worth, or symmetry
Phillip Cole, Philosophies of Exclusion, 1-11, 16-29; 43-58

9-25 Problems with Hobbes’ solution and all liberal solutions ignoring the boundary problem
Phillip Cole, Philosophies of Exclusion, 165-188; 192-198
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

9-27 CLASS DEBATE: is it illiberal to treat state members differently from non-members? Or who has the better liberal view on borders, Hobbes or Cole?

10-1 MICRO-ESSAY #2 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

10-2 Keep your force off my conscience
Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration, 113-129
Alan Wolfe, The Future of Liberalism, 157-186

10-4 Not skeptical pragmatism but ethical rationalism
Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration, 129-153
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
10-9 Locke’s toleration: neither a child of doubt nor a support for pluralism
Susan Mendus, “Introduction,” 1-9 in *Justifying Toleration*

10-11 **CLASS DEBATE:** Is Locke’s approach to toleration defensible today?
Alex Tuckness, “Rethinking the Intolerant Locke,” 288-298 in *American Journal of Political Science*

10-15 **MICRO-ESSAY #3 DUE** in CLA 251 by 4PM

10-16 Locke on liberty, slavery, property, and the origin and end of government
Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, 1-66

10-18 The impact of Lockean arguments on indigenous claims to land
Jacob Levy, *The Multiculturalism of Fear*, 197-221

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

10-23 Locke’s theory of consent as a theory of political obligation
A. John Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligation*, 57-95

10-25 **CLASS DEBATE:** Is Locke’s consent personally granted or automatically conveyed?
Hanna Pitkin, “Obligation and Consent I,” 990-999 in *American Political Science Review*

10-29 **MICRO-ESSAY #4 DUE** in CLA 251 by 4PM

10-30 Rousseau on interest and justice, force and right, natural and civil liberty, and the Legislator

11-1 The general will and the government
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 49-84

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

11-6 *Is negative liberty necessary and sufficient? Yes*
Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty,” 118-154 in *Four Essays on Liberty*

11-8 **CLASS DEBATE:** 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*

11-12 **MICRO-ESSAY #5 DUE** in CLA 251 by 4PM

11-13 Marx on property, alienated labor, and class consciousness
David Wooton, *Modern Political Thought*, 735-774; 790-797; 826-846

11-15 The end of meritocracy?: Class inequality, low growth, and inheritance today

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

11-20 Locke’s self-ownership principle and its critics
Richard A. Arneson, “Lockean Self-Ownership: Towards a Demolition,” 26-54

11-21-11-25 THANKSGIVING

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11-27 **CLASS DEBATE:** Does the claim of self-ownership justify the minimal state?
Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, 149-164

1-29 Nationalism: modern but not necessarily liberal
Ronald Beiner, “Introduction,” 1-17 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Charles Taylor, “Nationalism and Modernity,” 219-245 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

12-3 **MICRO-ESSAY #6 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM**

12-4 Rousseau on peoplehood and civil religion: freedom from or for religion?

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

12-6 **CLASS DEBATE:** Is civic (or cultural) nationalism a coherent ideal? Must nationalism be illiberal?
Bernard Yack, “The Myth of the Civic Nation,” 103-118 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Kai Nielsen, “Cultural Nationalism, Neither Ethnic nor Civic,” 119-128 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Judith Lichtenberg, “How Liberal can Nationalism be?” 167-184 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

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

12-13 **FINAL EXAM 1:15-3:15 PM**

**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 can be found on the class Moodle page. 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.


**Social contract**

Students are required to complete seven micro-essays (750-900 word)—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. This is a discussion-based class. You should attend regularly. 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 often 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 6).

**Office hours**

CLA 251

M 3:15-4; TH 4-5; W 9-11

Homepage: [http://www.iwu.edu/~jsimeone](http://www.iwu.edu/~jsimeone) (All assignments will be posted on my webpage.)