Class schedule
8/25 Introduction: the many faces of liberalism
   Alan Wolfe, The Future of Liberalism, 3-29

8/27 Hobbes’ search for certainty: on perpetual motion and “a war of all men against all men”
   Hobbes, Leviathan, 1-47; 57-63

9/1 “the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short” and “the liberty of subjects”
   Hobbes, Leviathan, 74-145; 219-233

THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

9/3 Is Hobbes a liberal or an absolutist?

CLASS DEBATE

9/7 Labor Day no class

9/8 MICRO-ESSAY #1 DUE in class

9/8 Modernity’s problem with religion: A materialist approach to sectarianism
   Hobbes, Leviathan, 63-74; 190-203; 397-435

9/10 Does Hobbes intend to liberalize or replace Christianity?
   Mark Gavre, “Hobbes and his Audience: the Dynamics of Theorizing,” 1542-1556 in the American Political Science Review

CLASS DEBATE

9/14 MICRO-ESSAY #2 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

9/15 Keep your force off my conscience
   Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration, 113-129
   Alan Wolfe, The Future of Liberalism, 157-186

9/17 Not skeptical pragmatism but ethical rationalism
   Locke, A Letter Concerning Toleration, 129-153
   Susan Mendus, “Introduction,” 1-9 in Justifying Toleration

THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

9/22 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

9/24 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**

9/28 MICRO-ESSAY #3 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

9/29 Locke on liberty, slavery, property, and the origin and end of government
Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, 1-66

10/1 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*

SPECIAL EVENING EVENT: “American Outrage” (2008) 8 PM Beckman in Ames

10/6 Locke’s theory of consent as a theory of political obligation
A. John Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligation*, 57-95

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

10/8 *Is Locke's consent personally granted or automatically conveyed?*
Hanna Pitkin, “Obligation and Consent I,” 990-999 in *American Political Science Review*

**CLASS DEBATE**

10/12 MICRO-ESSAY #4 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

10/13 Rousseau on interest and justice, force and right, natural and civil liberty, and the Legislator

10/15 The general will and the government
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 49-84

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

10/20 *Is negative liberty necessary and sufficient? Yes*
Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty,” 118-154 in *Four Essays on Liberty*

10/22 *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*
John Christman, “Saving Positive Freedom,” 79-88 in *Political Theory*

**CLASS DEBATE**

10/26 MICRO-ESSAY #5 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

10/27 Rousseau’s critique of civilized humanity
Rousseau, *First Discourse*, 30-74
Arthur Melzer, *The Natural Goodness of Man*, 59-68

10/29 The contradictions of civilization and Rousseau’s solutions
Arthur Melzer, *The Natural Goodness of Man*, 89-113

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

11/3 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*
11/5  *Is faith in technology and human artifice a liberal virtue?*  
Leon Kass, “The Problem of Technology,” 1-24 in *Technology in the Western Political Tradition*  
Arthur Melzer, “The Problem with ‘the Problem of Technology’,” 287-321 in *Technology in the Western Political Tradition*

**CLASS DEBATE**

11/9  MICRO-ESSAY #6 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM

11/10 Nationalism: modern but not necessarily liberal  
Ronald Beiner, “Introduction,” 1-17 in *Theorizing Nationalism*  
Charles Taylor, “Nationalism and Modernity,” 219-245 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

11/12 Rousseau on peoplehood and religion  

**THREE QUESTIONS CLASS**

11/17 A liberal theory of nationalism  
Brian Barry, “Self-Government Revisited” 247-272 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

11/19 A little universalism with your particularism  
Rogers Smith, *Stories of Peoplehood*, 129-174

11/24 THANKSGIVING BREAK

12/1  *Is liberal civic nationalism a flawed 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**

12/3  *Is the liberal civic nationalism e a flawed ideal? No*  
Alan Wolfe, *The Future of liberalism*, 93-125  
Judith Lichtenberg, “How Liberal Can Nationalism Be?” 167-184 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

**CLASS DEBATE**

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

12/10 **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.

60% micro-essays (10% each)
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 3).

Office hours

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