

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
LIBERALISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS
POLITICAL SCIENCE 316
FALL 2007**

Class schedule

- 8/27 *Introduction: the many faces of liberalism*
Johnston, *The Idea of a Liberal Theory*, 3-27
- 8/29 *On perpetual motion and "a war of all men against all men"*
Hobbes, *Man and Citizen*, 45-54; 89-119
- 9/3 Labor Day no class
- 9/5 *"liberty ... is nothing else but an absence of the lets and hindrances of motion"*
Hobbes, *Man and Citizen*, 121-152; 165-204
- 9/10 *Testing the merits of a political theory: consistency*
Johnston, *The Idea of a Liberal Theory*, 27-33
Hobbes, *Man and Citizen*, 221-235; 243-288
- 9/12 *Is Hobbes' sovereign an "absolute authority" or a "mere spitting frog"?*
Sheldon Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, 239-286
CLASS DEBATE
- 9/14 MICRO-ESSAY #1 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 9/17 *Locke on liberty and slavery and the ends of political society*
Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, 8-18; 65-82
- 9/19 *Locke on property*
Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, 18-30
- 9/24 *Is the right to hold private property a natural right for Locke?*
Karl Olivecrona, "Appropriation in the State of Nature: Locke on the Origin of Property," 211-230 in *Journal of the History of Ideas*
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 9/26 *Does Locke's theory of property properly evaluate indigenous claims to land?*
Jacob Levy, "Blood and Soil, Place or Property: Liberalism, Land and Ethnicity," 197-221 in *The Multiculturalism of Fear*
CLASS DEBATE
- 9/28 MICRO-ESSAY #2 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 10/1 *Identifying what counts: consent as a tool of political critique*
Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, 30-65; 83-124
- 10/3 *Is Locke's consent personally granted or automatically conveyed?*
Hanna Pitkin, "Obligation and Consent I," 990-999 in *American Political Science Review*
A. John Simmons, "The Argument from Tacit Consent," 75-95 in *Moral Principles and Political Obligation*
CLASS DEBATE

- 10/5 MICRO-ESSAY #3 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 10/8 *Rousseau on the transformation from human being to citizen*
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 9-68
- 10/10 *Rousseau on the forms of government, citizenship, and the general will*
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 69-148
- 10/15 *Testing normative ordering: Is negative liberty better than positive liberty? Yes*
Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty," 118-154 in *Four Essays on Liberty*
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 10/17 *Is negative liberty better than positive liberty? No*
Charles Taylor, "What is Wrong with Negative Liberty," 175-193 in *The Idea of Freedom*
CLASS DEBATE
- 10/19 MICRO-ESSAY #4 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 10/22 *Mill on individual liberty as the road to truth*
Mill, *On Liberty*, 59-118
- 10/24 *Testing normative ordering: The harm principle as a tool of social ordering*
Mill, *On Liberty*, 119-162
- 10/29 *Should Islam tolerate Salman Rushdie? No*
Bhikhu Parekh, "The Rushdie Affair: Research Agenda for Political Philosophy," 303-320 in *The Rights of Minority Cultures*
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 10/31 *Should Islam tolerate Salman Rushdie? Yes*
Jeremy Waldron, "Rushdie and Religion," 134-142 in *Liberal Rights*
CLASS DEBATE
- 11/2 MICRO-ESSAY #5 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 11/5 *Nationalism: modern but not necessarily liberal*
Charles Taylor, "Nationalism and Modernity," 219-245 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
- 11/7 *National affiliation as chosen and constitutive*
Tamir, *Liberal nationalism*, 3-56
- 11/12 *Evaluating real alternatives: The civic/ethnic nationalism distinction*
Tamir, *Liberal nationalism*, 57-116
- 11/14 *Is the liberal nation-state a flawed ideal? Yes*
Bernard Yack, "The Myth of the Civic Nation," 103-118 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Kelly and Kaplan, "Nation and Decolonization," 1-29 in *Represented Communities*
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS AND CLASS VISIT BY KELLY
- 11/19 *Is the liberal nation-state a flawed ideal? No*
Tamir, *Liberal nationalism*, 117-167
CLASS DEBATE

- 1/20 MICRO-ESSAY #6 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 11/21 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 11/26 *Autonomy as a basic norm: perfectionist liberalism*
Johnston, *The Idea of a Liberal Theory*, 68-99
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 11/28 *Liberalism and identity*
Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, 1-61
- 12/3 *Should liberals recognize the right to culture?*
Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, 62-154
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 12/5 *A critique of perfectionism*
Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, 155-212
CLASS DEBATE
- 12/9 MICRO-ESSAY #7 DUE in CLA 251 by 4PM
- 12/12 FINAL EXAM 10:15-12:15

Course requirements

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

Appiah, Kwame Anthony. *The Ethics of Identity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005)
Hobbes, Thomas. *Man and Citizen* Edited by Bernard Gert (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1991)
Johnston, David. *The Idea of a Liberal Theory: A Critique and Reconstruction* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994)
Locke, John. *The Second Treatise on Government* Edited by C.B. Macpherson (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1980)
Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty* Edited by Gertrude Himmelfarb (New York: Penguin Classics, 1982)
Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *On the Social Contract* Translated by Maurice Cranston (New York: Penguin Classics, 1968)
Tamir, Yael. *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993)

The following articles and selections from books are held on e-reserve at the Ames Library website. The password is "theory" all lower case. 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.

Beiner, Ronald, Ed. *Theorizing Nationalism* (Albany: State University of New York, 1999)
Berlin, Isaiah. *Four Essays on Liberty* (London: Oxford University Press, 1969)
Kelly, John D. and Martha Kaplan. *Represented Communities: Fiji and World Decolonization* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001)
Kymlicka, Will, Ed. *The Rights of Minority Cultures*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995)
Levy, Jacob. *The Multiculturalism of Fear*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)
Olivecrona, Karl. "Appropriation in the State of Nature: Locke on the Origin of Property," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 35 (1974):211-230

Pitkin, Hanna. "Obligation and Consent I," *American Political Science Review* (December, 1965):990-999.
Ryan, Alan. Ed. *The Idea of Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979)
Simmons, A. John. *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979)
Wolin, Sheldon. *Politics and Vision: Continuity and Innovation in Western Political Thought* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1960)
Waldron, Jeremy. *Liberal Rights*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993)

Social contract

Students are required to complete seven micro-essays (2-3 pages)--the lowest grade is dropped.

60% micro-essays (10% each)

25% final exam

15% class participation (including 6 three questions classes and 7 class debates)

All assignments will be posted on my webpage.

Because this is a writing intensive class, students have the opportunity to revise every micro-essay once. *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 such revisions must be handed in to me on or before the final class session (December 5th).

No student who misses as many as **eight** class sessions, for whatever reason, shall receive a passing grade

Office hours

Professor James Simeone

CLA 251

556-3126

TTH 4-5

W 9-11; 1-2

Homepage: <http://www.iwu.edu/~jsimeone>