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
      Hobbes, Man and Citizen, 221-235; 243-288

9/12  Is Hobbes’ sovereign an “absolute authority” or a “mere spitfrog”?
      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?
      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

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

10/24  Testing normative ordering: The harm principle as a tool of social ordering

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/ethic 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
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.


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.


**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
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