

**MODERN POLITICAL THOUGHT
LIBERALISM, THE NATION STATE, AND RELIGION
POLITICAL SCIENCE 316
HYBRID VERSION
FALL 2020**

Class schedule

- 8-18 Introduction: review syllabus; get acquainted; the many faces of liberalism **PG TENT**
- 8-20 Definitions of liberalism and Hobbes' "perpetual and restless desire of power after power" **ZOOM**
Alan Wolfe, *The Future of Liberalism*, 3-29
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, liv, 1-11; 15-19; 22-27; 31; 37; 57-63
- 8-22 "the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short" and "the liberty of subjects" **PG TENT**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 74-100; 106-128; 136-45
- 8-25 On the powers and limits of sovereignty: "not to restrain people from harmless liberty"
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 219-233 **ZOOM**
- 8-27 Hobbes's problem with religion: the disorder of sectarianism **PG TENT**
Hobbes, *Leviathan*, 63-74; 190-203; 397-410; 521-539
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 9-1 **CLASS DEBATE: Is Hobbes a liberal or an absolutist? ZOOM**
Leo Strauss, *The Political Philosophy of Hobbes*, 59-70
J. Judd Owen, "The Tolerant Leviathan," 130-148 in *Polity*
- 9-3 Hobbes' gift to IR theory: international anarchy and no morality but national self-interest **ZOOM**
Charles Beitz, *Political Theory and International Relations*, 12-14, 27-66
- 9-5 The dilemmas of open borders: offending civic membership, equal moral worth, or symmetry **PG TENT**
Phillip Cole, *Philosophies of Exclusion*, 1-11, 16-29; 43-58
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 9-7 MICRO-ESSAY #1 DUE in Google docs form by 4PM
- 9-8 Problems with Hobbes' solution and all liberal solutions ignoring the boundary problem **ZOOM**
Phillip Cole, *Philosophies of Exclusion*, 165-188; 192-198
- 9-10 **CLASS DEBATE: Who has the better liberal view on borders, Hobbes or Cole? ZOOM**
Alan Wolfe, *The Future of Liberalism*, 187-208; 215-216
- 9-14 MICRO-ESSAY #2 DUE in Google docs form by 4PM
- 9-15 Keep your force off my conscience **ZOOM**
Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, 113-129
Alan Wolfe, *The Future of Liberalism*, 157-186
- 9-17 Not skeptical pragmatism but ethical rationalism **PG TENT**
Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, 129-153
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

- 9-22 Locke's toleration: neither a child of doubt nor a support for pluralism **ZOOM**
Jeremy Waldron, "Locke: Toleration, and the Rationality of Persecution," 61-86 in *Justifying Toleration*
Susan Mendus, "Introduction," 1-9 in *Justifying Toleration*
- 9-24 **CLASS DEBATE: Is Locke's approach to toleration defensible today? PG TENT**
Alex Tuckness, "Rethinking the Intolerant Locke," 288-298 in *American Journal of Political Science*
Wolfe, *The Future of Liberalism*, 30-61
- 9-28 MICRO-ESSAY #3 DUE in Google docs form by 4PM
- 9-29 Locke on liberty, slavery, property, and the origin and end of government **ZOOM**
Locke, *The Second Treatise on Government*, 1-66
- 10-1 The impact of Lockean arguments on indigenous claims to land **PG TENT**
Jacob Levy, *The Multiculturalism of Fear*, 197-221
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 10-6 Locke's theory of consent as a theory of political obligation **ZOOM**
A. John Simmons, *Moral Principles and Political Obligation*, 57-95
- 10-8 **CLASS DEBATE: Is Locke's consent personally granted or automatically conveyed? PG TENT**
Hanna Pitkin, "Obligation and Consent I," 990-999 in *American Political Science Review*
- 10-12 MICRO-ESSAY #4 DUE in Google docs by 4PM
- 10-13 Rousseau on interest and justice, force and right, natural and civil liberty, and the Legislator **ZOOM**
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 16-48
- 10-15 The general will and the government **PG TENT**
Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, 49-84
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 10-20 *Is negative liberty necessary and sufficient? Yes ZOOM*
Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty," 118-154 in *Four Essays on Liberty*
- 10-22 **CLASS DEBATE: Is negative liberty sufficient? No PG TENT**
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*
- 10-26 MICRO-ESSAY #5 DUE in Google docs by 4PM
- 10-27 Marx on property, alienated labor, and class consciousness **ZOOM**
David Wooton, *Modern Political Thought*, 735-774; 790-797; 826-846
- 10-29 The end of meritocracy?: Class inequality, low growth, and inheritance today **PG TENT**
Thomas Piketty, *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*, 336-429
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 11-3 Nationalism: modern but not necessarily liberal **PG TENT**
Ronald Beiner, "Introduction," 1-17 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
Charles Taylor, "Nationalism and Modernity," 219-245 in *Theorizing Nationalism*

- 11-5 Rousseau on peoplehood and civil religion: freedom from or for religion? **PG TENT**
 Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*, 84-103
 Alan Wolfe, *The Future of liberalism*, 157-186
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS
- 11-8 Is cultural nationalism a coherent ideal? **ZOOM**
 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*
- 11-10 Liberal nationalism? **PG TENT**
 Judith Lichtenberg, "How Liberal can Nationalism be?" 167-184 in *Theorizing Nationalism*
- 11-12 **CLASS DEBATE: Can nationalism be rendered reliably civil and liberal? PG TENT**
- 11-16 MICRO-ESSAY #6 DUE in Google doc by 4PM
- 11-18 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 Hobbes and Wolfe books should be purchased there, as they are the first books we will use and on-line purchases often do not arrive in time. You will be expected to have the texts when are reading them together on assigned days and you are expected to read the material **before** the class session.

- Beiner, Ronald, Ed. *Theorizing Nationalism* (Albany: State University of New York, 1999)
 Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan* Edited, with introduction, by Edwin Curley (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1994)
 Locke, John. *The Second Treatise on Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration* (Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2002)
 Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *On the Social Contract* Translated by Donald A. Cress Introduction by Peter Gay (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1987)
 Wolfe, Alan. *The Future of Liberalism* (New York: Knopf, 2009)

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.

- Beitz, Charles. *Political Theory and International Relations* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999): 12-14, 27-66.
- Berlin, Isaiah. *Four Essays on Liberty*. (London: Oxford University Press, 1969): 118-154
- Cole, Phillip. *Philosophies of Exclusion: Liberal Political Theory and Immigration* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2000): 1-11, 16-29; 43-58; 165-188; 192-198
- Levy, Jacob. *The Multiculturalism of Fear*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000): 197-221
- Mendus, Susan, ed. *Justifying Toleration: Conceptual and Historical Perspectives* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988): 1-9; 61-86
- Oakes, James. "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty," *Law and Social Inquiry* Vol. 21 (Winter 1996):79-82
- Owen, J. Judd. "The Tolerant Leviathan: Hobbes and the Paradox of Liberalism," *Polity* Vol. 37 (January 2005):130-148
- Piketty, Thomas. *Capital in the Twenty-First Century* Trans. Arthur Goldhammer. (Cambridge, Ma: Harvard University Press, 2014): 336-429
- Pitkin, Hanna. "Obligation and Consent I," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 59 (December 1965):990-999
- Simmons, A. John. *Moral Principles and Political Obligations*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979): 57-95
- Strauss, Leo. *The Political Philosophy of Thomas Hobbes*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1952): 59-78

Taylor, Charles. "What is Wrong with Negative Liberty?" 175-193 in *The Idea of Freedom* Edited by Alan Ryan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979)
Tuckness, Alex. "Rethinking the Intolerant Locke," *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 46 (April 2002):288-298
Wootton, David Ed., *Modern Political Thought*. (Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1996): 735-774; 790-797; 826-846

Social contract

Students are required to complete six micro-essays (750-900 word). 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 whether we are meeting in-person or online. After three absences, the class participation grade begins to be lowered. We can schedule make-up meetings to correct for additional absences.

Any remote learning will be conducted using Zoom or Google Meet. Course content will be on Moodle and assignments will be posted on my university webpage. I will make every effort to accommodate students who either get infected with or exposed to Covid 19 and need to be quarantined or who can't attend in-person class sessions due to the pandemic. **I will keep attendance at all in-person sessions to facilitate contact tracing, if needed, and all remote sessions to assure students are keeping up with the material.** If you are struggling with the material for any reason, please contact me via e-mail or in person so that I can work with you individually.

This class is being taught in a hybrid version. We will meet in-person about half the time and remotely about half the time. When this class meets in person, we will meet in the Peace Garden tent. This tent is located adjacent to 1208 North Evans just two blocks east of the Evelyn Chapel near the corner of University and Evans (see the campus map). The syllabus indicates our meeting location there as **PG TENT**. If it is expected to be below 45 at 11am or raining hard, I will alert you that morning via e-mail of a change in plans--either to a **ZOOM** or classroom setting. If there is a widespread Covid 19 outbreak, we will likely have to continue the class solely using **ZOOM** or **Google Meet**.

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 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 (November 12).

Office hours

Peace Garden tent or CLA 251

M 3:15-4; TH 1-3; W 9-10

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

Illinois Wesleyan University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health and chronic or temporary medical conditions), it is your responsibility to register with Disability Services. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and accommodations cannot be provided until I receive an email from Disability Services. Once the email is sent, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations confidentially so they may be implemented in a timely fashion. For more information contact Disability Services by visiting 110 Holmes Hall, calling [309-556-3231](tel:309-556-3231), or emailing cshipley@iwu.edu.