

## Issues in Political Theory

Political Science G6601  
Spring 2008  
Mondays 2:10-4  
711 IAB

Prof. Johnston  
705 IAB  
Office hour Mon. 4-5

### Course Description

This course is a survey intended primarily for Ph.D. students in Political Science. It is also open to a limited number of other well-qualified students. Treatment of issues is selective, not comprehensive.

### Requirements

All students should complete all required readings in advance of the session in which they will be discussed. In addition, students who are taking this course for a letter grade ("E" credit) must complete three short essays on topics that will be provided in advance. The essays will be due on Thursday, February 21, Thursday, March 13, and Thursday, April 10. All students must also complete a take-home examination. The exam will be handed out during the final regular meeting of the course on April 28 and will be due back on **Thursday, May 1** no later than 4 p.m. The two best of each student's three essays will count for approximately 40% of the final grade; the final exam will count for about 40% of the grade; the remaining 20% of the final grade will be based on students' oral performance in discussions both in and outside the classroom. No incompletes will be given in this class.

### Readings

Purchase of the following books (available at Book Culture) is strongly recommended. Additional readings are available on library reserves.

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince  
John Locke, Second Treatise of Government  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract  
David Johnston, ed., Equality (Hackett)  
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Norton Critical Edition)  
Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations (Oxford World's Classics Edition)

### Schedule

**Week 1 Introduction** (January 28)

Sheldon Wolin, "Political Theory as a Vocation," American Political Science Review 63 (1969)

Richard Tuck, "History," in Robert Goodin and Philip Pettit, A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy

### **Part I Basic Concepts**

**Week 2 Power** (February 4)

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince  
Robert Dahl, "The Concept of Power," Behavioral Science 2 (1957):201-214  
Steven Lukes, Power: A Radical View  
Michel Foucault, "Governmentality," in The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality, ed. Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon, and Peter Miller

**Week 3 Freedom** (February 11)

John Locke, Second Treatise of Government, chs. 4, 6

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract, Book I, chs. 6-8; Book II, ch. 6  
Benjamin Constant, "The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the  
Moderns," in Political Writings (Cambridge)  
Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty," in Four Essays on Liberty, pp. 118-172  
Gerald MacCallum, "Negative and Positive Freedom," in Philosophy, Politics and  
Society, Fourth Series, pp. 174-193  
Quentin Skinner, "Paradoxes of Political Liberty," in Liberty, ed. David Miller

**Week 4 Equality** (February 18)

David Johnston, ed., Equality, selections by Aristotle, Hobbes, Tawney, Hayek,  
Sen, Walzer

John Rawls, "Social Unity and Primary Goods," in Collected Papers

David Johnston, "Equality and Plurality" (ms.)

**First Essay due Thursday, Feb. 21, at 4 p.m.**

**Part II Principal Formations**

**Week 5 States** (February 25)

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Norton Critical Edition)

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in From Max Weber, ed. Girth and Mills

**Week 6 Markets** (March 3)

Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations (Oxford World's Classics ed.)

Albert O. Hirschman, The Passions and the Interests

**Part III Central Questions of Political Theory**

**Week 7 Constitutionalism** (March 10)

John Locke, Second Treatise of Government

Friedrich Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty, chs. 1, 2, 7, 9-16

M. J. C. Vile, Constitutionalism and the Separation of Powers, ch. 2

Stephen T. Holmes, "Precommitment and the Paradox of Democracy," in  
Constitutionalism and Democracy, ed. Jon Elster

Jeremy Waldron, "Precommitment and Disagreement," in Law and Disagreement

**Second Essay due Thursday, March 13, at 4 p.m.**

**Spring Recess** (March 17-21)

**Week 8 Democracy** (March 24)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract

John Stuart Mill, Considerations on Representative Government, chs.

Joseph Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, Part IV, pp. 235-302

Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy," in Democracy, ch. 2 (pp.  
17-34)

Bernard Manin, "On Legitimacy and Political Deliberation," Political Theory 15  
(1987):338-368

**Week 9 Boundaries** (March 31)

Fred Whelan, "Prologue: Democratic Theory and the Boundary Problem," in Liberal  
Democracy, ed. J. Roland Pennock and John W. Chapman

Michael Walzer, "The Moral Standing of States,"

Allen Buchanan, "The Making and Unmaking of Boundaries: What Liberalism Has to  
Say," in States, Nations, and Borders: The Ethics of Making Boundaries, ed.

Allen Buchanan and Margaret Moore

David Miller, "Against Global Egalitarianism," Journal of Ethics (2005)

Thomas Pogge, "Cosmopolitanism," in Robert Goodin, Philip Pettit, and Thomas Pogge, A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy (2007)

**Week 10 Justice** (April 7)

Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics, Book V

Immanuel Kant, Metaphysics of Morals, Part I: "Metaphysical First Principles of the Doctrine of Right"

John Rawls, TBA

**Third Essay due Thursday, April 10, at 4 p.m.**

**Week 11 Rights** (April 14)

Wesley Hohfeld, Fundamental Legal Conceptions

Ronald Dworkin, "Taking Rights Seriously," in Taking Rights Seriously

Jeremy Waldron, "Rights," in Robert Goodin and Philip Pettit, A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy

**Part IV Ideologies**

**Week 12 Ideologies** (April 21)

Judith Shklar, "The Liberalism of Fear"

Jeremy Waldron, "Theoretical Foundations of Liberalism,"

David Johnston, "Liberalism," in Encyclopedia of Governance (Sage Publications)

Geraint Parry, "Tradition, Community, and Self-Determination,"

Gerald Cohen, "Karl Marx and the Withering Away of Social Science," Appendix in Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense

**Part V Principal Formations Revisited**

**Week 13 Principal Formations Revisited** (April 28)

Readings to be announced

**Week 14** (May 5)

Final Examination to be distributed

**Final Exam due Thursday, May 8 at 4 p.m.**