

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Political Science Department

Political Science 416
Seminar on Liberalism and American Foreign Policy
Spring 2016
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

Course Description: This course examines how America's liberal tradition affects its foreign policy.

Course Requirements: Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend all the seminars, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%) and either one 15-page paper or two 7-page papers (75%). Students can choose either option.

I will provide a list of paper topics, from which students will choose one or two. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – June 7. For graduating students, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 1.

Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. The paper must be: no longer than 15 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font. Please make sure to identify the question you are answering at the start of your paper.

Readings and Books: All of the following books are in paperback and have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

- John Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism* (New Press)
- Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (Harvard)
- Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights* (Norton)
- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia* (Belknap)
- Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)
- Uday Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (Chicago)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard)
- Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton)
- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic)

All pieces with ** are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. March 28 (Mon): Organizational Meeting

2. April 4 (Mon): What is Liberalism?

- Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism*, read entire book.
- Alan Ryan, *The Making of Modern Liberalism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012), chapter 1. **
- Ronald Dworkin, *A Matter of Principle* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1985), chapter 8. **

3. April 11 (Mon): Progressive liberalism

- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *National Interest*, Summer 1989 **
- Rawls, *Law of Peoples*, read entire book.

4. April 18 (Mon): Liberal America

-- Hartz, *Liberal Tradition in America*, read entire book.

-- Michael Desch, "America's Liberal Illiberalism," *International Security*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (Winter 2007/2008), pp. 7-43. **

5. April 25 (Mon): Liberalism and Nationalism

-- Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*, read entire book.

-- Seyla Benhabib, "Claiming Rights across Borders: International Human Rights and Democratic Sovereignty," *APSR*, Vol. 103, No. 4 (November 2009), pp. 691-704. **

6. May 2 (Mon): American Nationalism

-- Huntington, *Who Are We*, read entire book.

-- Rogers M. Smith, *Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), pp. 1-39.

7. May 9 (Mon): Universal Human Rights

-- Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights*, read entire book.

-- Moyn, *The Last Utopia*, read entire book.

8. May 16 (Mon): Liberal Imperialism

-- Karuna Mantena, "The Crisis of Liberal Imperialism," in Duncan Bell, ed., *Victorian Visions of Global Order: Empire and International Relations in Nineteenth-Century Political Thought* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 113-35. **

-- Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire*, read entire book.

9. May 23 (Mon): Liberal Peace

-- Deborah Boucoyannis, "The International Wanderings of a Liberal Idea, or Why Liberals Can Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Balance of Power," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (December 2007), pp. 703-727. **

-- Markus Fischer, "The Liberal Peace: Ethical, Historical, and Philosophical Aspects," BCSIA Discussion Paper 2000-07, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, April 2007. **

-- John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Fall 1994), pp. 87-125. **

-- Kenneth N. Waltz, "Kant, Liberalism, and War," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 61, No. 2 (June 1962), pp. 331-340. **

10. June 3 (Wed): Just War Theory

-- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, read entire book.