Political Science 416
Seminar on Liberalism and American Foreign Policy
Spring 2009
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

**Course Description:** The aim of this course is to examine 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 one 15-page paper (75%).

We will provide a list of paper topics, from which students will choose one. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday of exam week -- June 10. 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.

**Readings and Books:** The following books have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

- Francis Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads* (Yale)
- Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (Harvest)
- Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong* (Oxford)
- Uday Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (Chicago)
- Kevin Phillips, *The Cousins’ Wars* (Basic)

All articles and book chapters are on Chalk.

**Course Outline:**

1. March 30, 2009 (Mon): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 6 (Mon): **American Exceptionalism**

   -- Hartz, *Liberal Tradition in America*, read all

3. April 13 (Mon): **America as an Ordinary Country**


4. April 20 (Mon): **The Chosen People at Work**

   -- Phillips, *The Cousins’ Wars*, read all.

5. April 27 (Mon): **American Nationalism**

   -- Lieven, *America Right or Wrong*, read all.

6. May 4 (Mon): **Liberalism and the Balance of Power**


7. May 11 (Mon): **The Bush Doctrine**

   -- Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads*, read all.

8. May 18 (Mon): **Liberal Imperialism**

   -- Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire*, read all.

9. May 25 (Mon): **Liberal Peace**


10. June 1 (Mon): **Exporting Democracy**

    -- Smith, *America’s Mission*, read all.