

Issues in Political Theory

Political Science G6601
Fall 2013
Wednesdays 2:10-4

Prof. Johnston
705 IAB
O.H. Mon. 2:30-4

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 at least three short essays on topics that will be provided in advance. The essays must be submitted on the dates indicated on the schedule below and should be delivered on paper to my mailbox no later than 12 noon. All students, whether taking the course for a letter grade or not, must complete a take-home examination. The exam will be handed out during the final regular meeting of the course and will be due back on the date indicated on the schedule below no later than 12 noon. The short essays taken together with any contributions to class discussion will count for approximately 60% of the final grade. The final exam will count for roughly 40% of the grade. No incompletes will be given in this class.

Readings

The following books have been ordered for purchase at Book Culture. Although you need not purchase these specific editions if you already own copies of one or more of these books, their purchase in some edition is strongly recommended. Additional readings are available on library reserves.

Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince, in Selected Political Writings (Hackett)
Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan (Norton Critical Edition)
John Locke, Second Treatise of Government, in Political Writings (Hackett)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract, in Basic Political Writings
(Hackett)
Adam Smith, The Wealth of Nations (Oxford)
Charles Beitz, The Idea of Human Rights (Oxford)
David Johnston, A Brief History of Justice (Wiley-Blackwell)

Schedule

Week 1 Introduction (Sept. 4)

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 (Sept. 11)

Aristotle, Physics, Book II, chs. 3 (194b15-195b30), in The Basic Works of Aristotle, ed. Richard McKeon (Random House, 1941), pp. 240-242
 Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince (complete)
 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 (Sept. 18)

Hobbes, Leviathan, ch. 21
 Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract, Book I, chs. 6-8; Book II, ch. 6
 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
 Charles Taylor, "What's Wrong with Negative Liberty?" in Philosophical Papers
 Quentin Skinner, "A Third Concept of Liberty," in The Liberty Reader, ed. David Miller (London: Paradigm Publishers, 2006)

First Essay due Monday, Sept. 23 at 12 noon
(all students must submit this essay)

Part II Principal Structures of Action

Week 4 Command Structures (Authority) (Sept. 25)

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, Introduction, chs. 1-18, 21, 24, 29, 30, 32, 33, Review and Conclusion
 Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in From Max Weber, ed. Girth and Mills
 Charles E. Lindblom, Politics and Markets, ch. 5

Week 5 Mutual Adjustment (Bargaining) (October 2)

Adam Smith, Wealth of Nations (as selected in Oxford World's Classics ed.)
 Charles E. Lindblom, Politics and Markets, ch. 6

Week 6 Imaginative Constructs (Persuasion) (Oct. 9)

Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan, chs. 2, 8, 44, 46, 47
 David Johnston, The Rhetoric of Leviathan, ch. 5
 Gerald Cohen, Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense, ch. 1 ("Images of History in Hegel and Marx")
 Dennis Ross, "Why Israelis, Arabs, and Palestinians See the World the Way They Do," (ch. 1 in Dennis Ross, The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace)
 Amos Tversky and Daniel Kahnemann, "The Framing of Decisions and the Psychology of Choice," Science 211:30 (January 1981):453-458

Second Essay due Monday, Oct. 14 at 12 noon
(all students must submit this essay)

Part III Central Questions of Political Theory

Week 7 Constitutionalism (Oct. 16)

John Locke, Second Treatise of Government
 Friedrich Hayek, The Constitution of Liberty, chs. 1, 2, 7, 9-12
 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

Week 8 Democracy (Oct. 23)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract (complete)
 John Stuart Mill, Considerations on Representative Government, chs. 2-6
 Joseph Schumpeter, Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, Part IV, pp. 235-302
 Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy," in The Good Polity, ed. Alan Hamlin and Philip Pettit (Oxford: Blackwell, 1989), ch. 2 (pp. 17-34)
 Bernard Manin, "On Legitimacy and Political Deliberation," Political Theory 15 (1987):338-368

Week 9 Boundaries (October 30)

Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," Philosophy and Public Affairs 1:3 (spring 1972):229-243
 Michael Walzer, "The Moral Standing of States," Philosophy and Public Affairs 9 (1980)
 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 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003)
 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)

Election Day Holiday

Week 10 Rights (Nov. 6)

Wesley Hohfeld, Fundamental Legal Conceptions as Applied in Judicial Reasoning (complete)
 Charles Beitz, The Idea of Human Rights

Third Essay due Monday, Nov. 11 at 12 noon

Week 11 Justice I (Nov. 13)

Immanuel Kant, The Metaphysics of Morals, pp. 55-122 (in the Cambridge ed. by Mary Gregor): Introduction to the Doctrine of Right, Division of the Doctrine of Right, and Part I, "Private Right"
 John Stuart Mill, Utilitarianism
 John Rawls, "Justice as Reciprocity," in Rawls, Collected Papers, pp. 190-224

Week 12 Justice II (Nov. 20)

David Johnston, A Brief History of Justice

Nov. 27: No class meeting

Thanksgiving Recess

Fourth Essay due Monday, Dec. 2 at 12 noon

Week 13 Conclusion (Dec. 4)

Final Exam due Monday, Dec. 9 at 12 noon