

Columbia University
Department of Political Science

G6601 Issues in Political Theory
Fall 2015

Instructor: Prof. **Nadia Urbinati**

Seminar: Tuesdays 6:10pm-8:00pm
Classroom: 711 IAB

Office hours:
Tuesdays 12:00-1:30 or by appointment
719 International Affairs Building

The course will be held in a seminar format. This seminar is primarily intended for those who plan to take the Comprehensive Examination (either as a major or a minor) in Political Theory or who wish to fulfill the third field requirement in Political Theory. However, it is open to all graduate students with the proviso that, if 20 or more students in the three categories listed above wish to register, no enrollment will be accepted from others. All students in the three categories listed above will be accepted, even if their number exceeds 20. If the course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to those committed to taking it for a letter grade as against an R.

The course does not cover the comps requirement in its entirety and inevitably it has to be selective in the choice of topics to be discussed. The teacher has chosen to discuss issues, within the areas of the comps examination that are part of the satellites and the subject of debate among political theorists. It must be emphasized that it will be necessary for students to do more reading than that contained in the weekly assignments to have a reasonable prospect of passing comps.

Structure

Beginning in week 2 (September 15), each session will include the discussion of one or two pre-circulated short papers written by students. Each student (including those taking the course for an R) will be required to write at least one such paper in the course of the semester. These papers must not exceed 3 pages in length (double spaced; 900 words) and must contain only points of discussion. Knowledge of the readings for the week should be assumed. Summary of the reading, except in the case and as far as they are integral to the questions raised, are to be avoided. Papers will be distributed to participants by e-mail.

They must be posted before midnight on the Sunday preceding the session for which they are required.

Grades

Grades will be based on a take-home examination. Take-home examination will be based on three sets of question: questions related to Part I, Part II and Part III. Candidates will be asked three questions, one from each part (each paper must not exceed 900 words in length). The introductory papers will not enter explicitly into the final grade. However, where the average of grade on take-home examination lies between two grades, the paper and contributions to the class generally will be taken into account to reach a definite grade.

The take-home examination to be returned on December 14 (topics will be sent to each student by email 48 hours in advance). Answers should be deposited in Professor Urbinati's mailbox by 4:00pm. Late answers will not be allowed (unless late delivery is cleared in advance with the Instructor on a medical/personal basis).

The take-home exam will count for approximately 60% of the final grade and any contributions to class discussion will count for approximately 40% of the grade. No incompletes will be given in this class.

Readings

Purchase of the following books is strongly recommended. The books have been ordered at Book Culture. The other books or articles are readily available in a variety of editions and also Columbia Library in Internet.

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (Hackett)

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Norton)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Modern Library)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Basic Political Writings* (Hackett)

Jean Bodin, *On Sovereignty* (Cambridge)

Immanuel Kant, *Political Writings* (Cambridge)

First Week: Introduction (September 8)

S. Wolin, "Political Theory as a Vocation," *American Political Science Review* 63 (1969):1062-1082.

Richard Rorty, "The Priority of Democracy to Philosophy," in Id., *Objectivity, Relativism, and Truth* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), 175-96.

R. Tuck, "History," in Robert E. Goodin and Philip Pettit, *A Companion to Contemporary Political Theory*. Oxford, UK; Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 1993. Tuck's chapter is available as e-book:

http://clio.cul.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?v1=4&ti=1,4&Search_Arg=pettit%20AND%20companion%20AND%20political%20AND%20philosophy&Search_Code=CMD&SL=None&CNT=50&PID=idqabKse1YzkgBVMvjJQeYcnuHNh&SEQ=20090831100839&SID=3

Part I: Basic Concepts

Week 2: Power (September 15)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Essays by Weber, Arendt and Foucault in Steven Lukes, ed., *Power* (New York University Press, 1986).

Week 3: Liberty and Equality I (September 22)

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, chapter 21;

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Bk. I, chaps. 1-8; Book II, ch.6;

Benjamin Constant, "The Liberty of the Ancients Compared with that of the Moderns," in *Political Writings* (Cambridge);

Thomas H. Green, "Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract" (1881), in *Liberty* by David Miller, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Week 4: Liberty and Equality II (September 29)

Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty," in *Four Essays on Liberty*;

Gerald MacCallum, "Negative and Positive Freedom," in *Liberty*, ed. David Miller;

Quentin Skinner, "The Paradoxes of Political Liberty," in *Liberty* ed. by David Miller;

Amartya Sen, "Liberty and Social Choice," *The Journal of Philosophy*, 80 (1983): 5-28.

Part II: Principal Structures of Collective Action

Week 5: The State (October 6)

Jean Bodin, *On Sovereignty* Bk. I, chs. 8 and 10;

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* chs. 17-18, 30;

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology*.

Week 6: Markets (October 13)

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* Bk 1, chs. 1-4, 7-8; Bk. 2, chs. 1-3; Bk. 3, chs. 1-4; Bk. 4, Chs. 2, 7; Bk. 5, Ch. 1;
Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

Week 7: Ideology (October 20)

Giovanni Sartori, "Politics, Ideology and Beliefs Systems," in *American Political Science Review*, 63 (1969):398-411;
Karl Marx, *German Ideology* (th selection in Marx's anthology ed. By Tucker);
Gramsci, *The Modern Prince*;
Louis Althusser, "Ideological State Apparatuses," in Lenin and Philosophy.

Part III: Issues in Contemporary Political Theory

Week 8: Constitutionalism (October 27)

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, "Disagreement and Precommitment" .

Week 9: Democracy (November 10)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract* Bk. II, Chs. 8-10; Bk. III, Chs. 1-5, 7, 15-17;
The Federalists n. 63;
Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*, Part IV, pp. 235-302;
Adam Przeworski, "Minimalist Conception of Democracy: A Defense" in Shapiro Hacker-Cordon, eds., *Democracy's Value*;
Jürgen Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*, ch. 3, 7 (pp. 296-308), and 8 (pp.341-384).

Week 10: Representation (November 17)

Hannah Pitkin, The Concept of Representation, chs. 4, 5;
Bernard Manin, The Principles of Representative Government, chs. 4, 6;
Nadia Urbinati, Representative Democracy, ch. 1;
Jane Mansbridge, "Rethinking Representation," in *American Political Science Review* 97 (2003): 515-28.

Week 11: Boundaries (November 24)

Fred Whelan, "Prologue: Democratic Theory of the Boundary Problem," in *Liberal Democracy*, ed. J. Roland Pennock and John W. Chapman;
Michael Walzer, "The Moral Standing of States," in *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 9 (1980);
David Miller, "Against Global Egalitarianism," *Journal of Ethics* (2005);
Thomas Pogge, "Cosmopolitanisms," in Robert Goodin, Thomas Pogge and Philip Pettit, *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy* (2007);

Will Kymlicka, "Territorial Boundaries: A Liberal-Egalitarian Perspective," in David Miller and Sohail H. Hashmi, eds., *Boundaries and Justice: Diverse Ethical Perspectives*, Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 2001.

Week 12: Rights (December 1)

T.H. Marshall, "Citizenship and Social Classes," in Bottomore, ed., *Class, Citizenship and Social Development* (ch. 4).

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

Jeremy Waldron, "Rights," in Robert Goodin, Thomas Pogge and Philip Pettit, ed., *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy* (e-book)

Joseph Raz, "Human Rights Without Foundations," pdf file at

www.law.columbia.edu/faculty/fac_resources/faculty_lunch/fall06

Week 13: Justice (December 8)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, book V;

John Rawls, "Justice as Reciprocity," in *Collected Papers* (1999);

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

Amartya Sen, "Equality of What?" (The Tanner Lecture on Human Values, 1979).