

Ohio State University
Political Science 3430
Political Theories of Freedom
2:20-3:40 WF Fall 2014
Eric MacGilvray

Office hours: W 1:00-2:00 or by appt.
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Overview

This course provides a survey of the various ways in which the value of human freedom has been invoked and pursued in political life. Topics of discussion will include the relationship between freedom and democracy, between “political” and “market” freedom, and between freedom and the necessary conditions for its enjoyment. Anarchist, feminist, liberal, libertarian, postmodern, republican and socialist perspectives will be considered.

Readings

The following book is required and should be available for purchase at the OSU Bookstore:

David Miller, ed., *The Liberty Reader* (Paradigm)

In addition, a number of required readings have been placed on e-reserve through Carmen.

Requirements

- (1) There will be two in-class exams, one to cover each of the main segments of the course:
 - 1st exam on Friday, October 10 [40%]
 - 2nd exam on Friday, December 5 [40%]
- (2) A number of in-class pop quizzes will be given over the course of the term. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and cannot be made up. They should be fairly straightforward for anyone who has done the reading for that day’s class. The quizzes will be worth 20% of the final grade taken together. I will drop the lowest mark.
- (3) Careful reading preparation and active class participation are expected. Grades will be adjusted up or down by as much as one-third of a grade on this basis.

Policies and procedures

Academic misconduct: It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct: <http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc>.

Disabilities: Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307; TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>

Schedule

I. Republican freedom

August 27	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , book 8, selection	[e-reserve]
August 29	NO CLASS	
September 3	Aristotle, <i>The Politics</i> , selections Polybius, <i>The Rise of the Roman Empire</i> , selections	[e-reserve] [e-reserve]
September 5	Niccolò Machiavelli, <i>Discourses on Livy</i> , selections	[e-reserve]
September 10	Jean-Jacques Rousseau, <i>On the Government of Poland</i> , selections	[e-reserve]
September 12	Charles de Montesquieu, <i>The Spirit of the Laws</i> , selections James Madison, <i>The Federalist</i> #51	[e-reserve] [e-reserve]
September 17	David Hume, “Of Commerce”; “Of Civil Liberty”	[e-reserve]
September 19	Benjamin Constant, “Ancient and Modern Liberty”	[e-reserve]
September 24	Alexis de Tocqueville, <i>Democracy in America</i> , selections	[e-reserve]
September 26	Friedrich Hayek, “Freedom and Coercion”	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
October 1	Hannah Arendt, “Freedom and Politics”	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
October 3	Philip Pettit, “The Republican Ideal of Freedom”	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
October 8	Review session	
October 10	FIRST EXAM	

II. Liberal freedom

October 15	Thomas Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , selections John Locke, <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selection John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i> , selection	[e-reserve] [e-reserve] [e-reserve]
October 17	NO CLASS	
October 22	Jeremy Bentham, “Anarchical Fallacies” William Paley, “Of Civil Liberty”	[e-reserve]
October 24	Henry David Thoreau, “On the Duty of Civil Disobedience”	[e-reserve]

October 29	John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , chapter 1	[e-reserve]
October 31	T. H. Green, "Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract"	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
November 5	Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism"	[e-reserve]
November 7	Milton Friedman, <i>Capitalism and Freedom</i> , selections C. B. Macpherson, "Elegant Tombstones"	[e-reserve] [e-reserve]
November 12	G. A. Cohen, "Freedom, Justice, and Capitalism," selection G. A. Cohen, "Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat"	[e-reserve] [<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
November 14	Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
November 19	Charles Taylor, "What's Wrong With Negative Liberty"	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
November 21	Nancy Hirschmann, "Toward a Feminist Theory of Freedom"	[<i>Liberty Reader</i>]
December 3	Review session	
December 5	SECOND EXAM	