

POLSCI 252: Modern Political Thought

MEETING SCHEDULE Tu/Th, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. McCormick Hall, Rm. M01-0617 INSTRUCTOR Brian Palmiter EMAIL Brian.Palmiter@umb.edu OFFICE LOCATION Wheatley Hall, 5th Floor, Rm. 64 OFFICE HOURS Tu/Th 11:00 – 12:00 p.m., or by appointment	COURSE OVERVIEW This course offers an introduction to the history of Western political ideas from Hobbes to Rawls. Close readings of the canon allow us to discuss enduring questions regarding freedom, equality, legitimacy, political economy, and liberalism. Particular attention is paid to the development of political liberalism by thinkers such as Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, and Mill, as well as the radical critiques of liberalism advanced by traditionalism, socialism, feminism, and critical race theory. The course concludes with a look at the continuing impact of these canonical thinkers on contemporary political thought. ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Attendance & participation (10%)</i>• <i>Reading Quizzes (20%)</i>• <i>Midterm exam (20%):</i> Text ID and short answer. In-class Mar 28 (Th).• <i>Paper (25%):</i> 1200 – 1500 words. Hard copy due in-class Apr 25 (Th).• <i>Final exam (25%):</i> Text ID and short answer. Exam date TBA. <i>Attendance & Participation:</i> Attendance and active participation are expected. Absences may be excused with a medical note or by prior permission of the instructor. <i>Reading Quizzes:</i> Over the course of the semester, brief reading quizzes will occasionally be administered prior to the day's lecture. They will focus on basic questions about the reading, such that they should be relatively easy for students who have done the readings with the required care. The idea is only to ensure that students are coming to lecture having done the necessary work. The schedule of the quizzes will not be announced in advance. Although students will not be permitted to retake the quizzes if they miss class (or arrive after the quiz has been given), I will not count each student's worst quiz in order to provide students leeway for personal issues that may arise. <i>Late Work Policy:</i> Late papers are penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day late. (1/3 = A → A-) CLASSROOM POLICY No electronics in class. You are expected to bring hard copies of the course texts with you to class. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY Dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this course. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, etc. The consequence for academic dishonesty is failure of the specific assignment, or (if a repeat offense) the course as a whole. Disciplinary procedures may also be initiated as outlined in the sections on Academic Standards, Cheating, and Plagiarism in the Code of Student Conduct in the University Undergraduate Catalog.
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REQUIRED TEXTS

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan: With Selected Variants from the Latin Edition of 1668*. Edited by Edwin Curley. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1994. ISBN: 978-0872201774.

Locke, John. *Two Treatises of Government*. Edited by Peter Laslett. Student ed. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988. ISBN: 978-0521357302.

Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty, Utilitarianism, and Other Essays*. Edited by Mark Philp and Frederick Rosen. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. ISBN: 978-0199670802.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *The Social Contract and Other Later Political Writings*. Edited by Victor Gourevitch. Cambridge Texts in the History of Political Thought. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. ISBN: 978-0521424462.

PART 1: THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERALISM

Tu	Jan 29	Introduction: <i>Defunct Economists and Academic Scribblers</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Syllabus
Th	Jan 31	Hobbes: <i>The Specter of Skepticism</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, intro, chs. 1, 2, 5, and 7: pp. 1– 11, 22 – 27, and 35 – 37.
Tu	Feb 5	Hobbes: <i>The State of Nature and the Social Contract</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, chs. 13 – 14, skim 15: pp. 74 – 88, skim 89 – 100.
Th	Feb 7	Hobbes: <i>The Sovereign and the Subjects</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, chs. 16 – 18, and 21: pp. 101 – 118, and 136 – 145.
Tu	Feb 12	Locke: <i>The State of Nature and Pre-Social Rights</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Locke, “Second Treatise,” <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>, chs. 1 – 3, and 5: pp. 267 – 282, and 285 – 302.
Th	Feb 14	Locke: <i>Legitimacy, Consent, and the Ends of Politics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Locke, “Second Treatise,” <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>, chs. 8 (§§ 95 – 101, 104, 113–116, 119 – 122), 9, and 7 (§§ 87 – 94): pp. 330 – 334, 336, 344 – 353, and 323 – 330.
Tu	Feb 19	Locke: <i>The Right to Representation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Locke, “Second Treatise,” <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>, chs. 10, 11, 13 (§149) and 14 (§159, 160, and 168): pp. 354 – 363, 366 – 367, 374 – 375, and 379 – 380.
Th	Feb 21	Locke: <i>The Right to Revolution</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Locke, “Second Treatise,” <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>, chs. 18 (§§199 and 201) and 19: pp. 398 – 400 and 406 – 419.

Tu	Feb 26	Rousseau: <i>The Social Pact and Legitimacy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i>, Book I: pp. 41 – 56.
Th	Feb 28	Rousseau: <i>The General Will</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i>, Book II, chs. 1 – 6: pp. 57 – 68. Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i>, Book IV, chs. 1 and 2: pp. 121 – 125.
Tu	Mar 5	Rousseau: <i>The Sovereign and the Government</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rousseau, <i>The Social Contract</i>, Book III, chs. 1 – 3, and 10 – 18: pp. 82 – 90, and 106 – 120.
Th	Mar 7	The American Founders: <i>From Liberal Theory to Practice</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Declaration of Independence [Available on Blackboard.] Federalist Papers #1, 10, 51 [Available on Blackboard.]
Tu	Mar 12	No Class – Spring Vacation
Th	Mar 14	No Class – Spring Vacation
Tu	Mar 19	J.S. Mill: <i>Tyranny of the Majority and the Harm Principle</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mill, “On Liberty,” <i>On Liberty, Utilitarianism, and Other Essays</i>, ch. 1: pp. 5 – 17.
Th	Mar 21	J.S. Mill: <i>Liberty to Disagree</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mill, “On Liberty,” <i>On Liberty, Utilitarianism, and Other Essays</i>, ch. 3: pp. 55 – 68.
Tu	Mar 26	J.S. Mill: <i>The Value of Representative Government</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mill, “Considerations on Representative Government,” <i>On Liberty, Utilitarianism, and Other Essays</i>, ch. 3: pp. 209 – 224.
Th	Mar 28	Midterm Exam
PART 2: CRITICS OF LIBERALISM		
Tu	Apr 2	Burke: <i>In Defense of Tradition</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burke, <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i>, selections TBA. [Available on Blackboard.]

Th Apr 4 *No Class – Cancelled By Instructor*

Marx: *Historical Materialism*

Tu Apr 9

- Marx, “The German Ideology,” *The Marx-Engels Reader*: pp. 148 – 163. [Available on Blackboard.]

Marx: *The Critique of Capitalism*

Th Apr 11

- Marx, “Wage Labor and Capital,” *The Marx-Engels Reader*: pp. 203 – 217. [Available on Blackboard.]

Marx: *The Ideological Critique of Liberalism*

Tu Apr 16

- Marx, “Marx on the History of His Opinions,” *The Marx-Engels Reader*: pp. 3 – 6. [Available on Blackboard.]
- Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” *The Marx-Engels Reader*: pp. 40 – 46. [Available on Blackboard.]

C.W. Mills: *The Racial Contract*

Th Apr 18

- Mills, Charles W., *The Racial Contract*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997: pp. 9 – 40. [Available on Blackboard.]

Jaggar: *Liberal Feminism*

Tu Apr 23

- Allison Jaggar, “Liberal Feminism and Human Nature,” in *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*, pp. 27 – 39. [Available on Blackboard.]

Paper Due

Jaggar: *A Feminist Critique of Liberalism*

Th Apr 25

- Allison Jaggar, “Liberal Feminism and Human Nature,” in *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*, pp. 39 – 48. [Available on Blackboard.]

PART 3: CONTEMPORARY DEFENSES OF LIBERALISM

Rawls: *The Main Idea of Justice as Fairness*

Tu Apr 30

- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Revised ed. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1999, §§ 3 – 4, 11: pp. 10 – 19, 52 – 56. [Available on Blackboard.]

Rawls: *The Two Principles of Justice*

Th May 2

- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Revised ed. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1999, §§ 3 – 4, 11: pp. 10 – 19, 52 – 56. [Available on Blackboard.]

Rawls: *The Argument for Justice as Fairness*

Tu May 7

- Rawls, John. *A Theory of Justice*. Revised ed. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1999, §§ 3 – 4, 11: pp. 10 – 19, 52 – 56. [Available on Blackboard.]

Shklar: *The Liberalism of Fear*

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| Th | May 9 | ▪ Shklar, Judith. "The Liberalism of Fear." In <i>Liberalism and the Moral Life</i> , edited by Nancy L. Rosenblum. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1989: pp. 21 – 38. [Available on Blackboard.] |
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Tu	May 14	<i>Wrap-up and Review</i>
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