

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Department of Political Science

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)
- Geoffrey Hodgson, *The Myth of American Exceptionalism* (Yale)
- Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong* (Oxford)
- Uday Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (Chicago)
- Kevin Phillips, *The Cousins' Wars* (Basic)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard)
- Tony Smith, *America's Mission* (Princeton)

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
- Michael Desch, "America's Liberal Illiberalism," *International Security*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (Winter 2007/2008), pp. 7-43.

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

- Hodgson, *The Myth of American Exceptionalism*, read all.
- Richard Hofstadter, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics and Other Essays* (New York: Knopf, 1965), pp. 3-40.
- Rogers M. Smith, *Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History* (New Haven: Yale

University Press, 1997), pp. 1-39.

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**

-- Deborah Boucoyannis, "The International Wanderings of a Liberal Idea, or Why Liberals Can Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Balance of Power," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 5, No. 4 (December 2007), pp. 703-727.

-- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: Norton, 2001), chapter 1.

-- Kenneth N. Waltz, "Kant, Liberalism, and War," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 61, No. 2 (June 1962), pp. 331-340.

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

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

-- Michael Desch, "Woodrow Wilson's War," *National Interest*, No. 99 (Jan./Feb. 2009), pp. 87-96.

-- Anne-Marie Slaughter, "Podhoretz' Complaint," *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, Issue #7 (Winter 2008)

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

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

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

-- Rawls, *Law of Peoples*, read all.

-- John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2 (Fall 1994), pp. 87-125.

-- Markus Fischer, "The Liberal Peace: Ethical, Historical, and Philosophical Aspects," BCSIA Discussion Paper 2000-07, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, April 2007.

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

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