

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Department of Political Science

Political Science 416
Seminar on Liberalism and American Foreign Policy
Spring 2011
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

Course Description: The course examines 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%).

A list of paper topics will be provided, from which students choose one. Papers are due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 8. Late papers 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:

- John Gray, *Two faces of Liberalism* (New Press)
- Francis Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads* (Yale)
- Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (Harvest)
- John Ikenberry et al, *The Crisis of American Foreign Policy* (Princeton)
- Anatol Lieven, *America Right or Wrong* (Oxford)
- Uday Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (Chicago)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard)
- Tony Smith, *America's Mission* (Princeton)
- Yael Tamir, *Liberalism and Nationalism* (Princeton)

All articles and book chapters are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. March 28, 2011 (Mon): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 4 (Mon): **Kinds of Liberalism**

- Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism*, read all.
- John Ikenberry, "Liberal Internationalism 3.0: America and the Dilemmas of Liberal World Order," *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (March 2009), pp. 71-87.
- Jeremy Waldron, "Theoretical Foundations of Liberalism," *The Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 147 (April 1987), pp. 127-50.

3. April 11 (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.

4. April 18 (Mon): **Liberalism and nationalism**

--Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*, read all.

--Seyla Benhabib, "Claiming Rights across Borders: International Human Rights and Democratic Sovereignty," *APSR*, Vol. 103, No. 4 (November 2009), 691-704

5. April 25 (Mon): **American Nationalism**

--Lieven, *America Right or Wrong*, read all.

--Richard Hofstadter, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics and Other Essays* (New York: Knopf, 1965), pp. 3-40.

6. May 2 (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 9 (Mon): **The Bush Doctrine**

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

--Ikenberry et al., *Crisis of American Foreign Policy*, read all.

8. May 16 (Mon): **Liberal Imperialism**

--Karuna Mantena, "The Crisis of Liberal Imperialism," in Duncan Bell, ed., *Victorian Visions of Global Order: Empire and International Relations in Nineteenth-Century Political Thought* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 113-35.

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

9. May 23 (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 (Wed): **Exporting Democracy**

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