

**UGEC2856**  
**Liberalism: Theories and Practices 自由主義：理論與實踐**  
**Course Outline (Preliminary)**

**Lecture Time: W 14:30-17:15**

**Location: LHC-G03**

**Course overview**

The course will explore important themes in the liberal tradition of political philosophy, such as liberty, equality, neutrality, democracy, and distributive justice. The course will focus on significant disagreements on those issues within the school of liberalism. The course will also introduce criticisms of liberalism from other political traditions, including conservatism, Marxism, communitarianism, and nationalism, and discuss liberals' responses to those challenges. Moreover, the course also aims to use the philosophical theories to analyze crucial political issues in our society.

本課程將探究自由主義政治哲學傳統中的多個重大議題，比如自由、平等、中立性、民主和分配正義等。本課程將集中探討自由主義內部的不同流派在這些問題上的爭論。本課程還將引介其他政治哲學流派對自由主義的挑戰，包括來自保守主義、馬克思主義、社群主義和民族主義的挑戰；並將討論自由主義者對這些挑戰的回應。此外，本課程力圖運用哲學理論去分析當前社會所面臨的重要的政治議題。

Philosophy Majors and students who have taken PHIL3233 cannot take this course to fulfil General Education requirements.

Prerequisite: UGFH1000 or UGFN1000.

**Learning outcomes**

1. To grasp the general conceptual framework of liberal justice.
2. To recognize and understand different types of liberalism and their philosophical grounds.
3. To understand and evaluate the disagreement between liberalism and anti-liberal theories.
4. To be able to read critically and write analytically on political issues.
5. To be capable of using philosophical theories to analyze contemporary political problems.

**Topics**

1. Liberalism and utilitarianism
2. Liberal egalitarianism vs. libertarianism
3. Negative liberty vs. positive liberty
4. Liberty neutrality vs. liberal non-neutrality
5. Political liberalism vs. comprehensive liberalism
6. Liberalism and Marxism
7. Liberalism and communitarianism
8. Liberalism and feminism

### Assessment scheme

<i>Task nature</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Interactive Tutorial	30%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Paper (1,500-2,000 words in English or 3,000-4,000 words in Chinese)	40%

### Required resources

W. Kymlicka (2002) *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press.

Other selected readings

### Recommended resources

A. Swift (2014) *Political Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Polity Press.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu>)

### Course schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Readings</i>	<i>Tutorials</i>
1	Liberalism and Utilitarianism	Ch. 2, "Utilitarianism", Kymlicka (2002)	
2	Liberal Egalitarianism (1)	Sections 1-3, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002)	
3	Liberal Egalitarianism (2)	Sections 4-5, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002)	
4	Liberal Egalitarianism (3)	Tang & Zhong, "Toward a Demystification of Egalitarianism"	
5	Libertarianism (1)	Sections 1-2, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002)	
6	Libertarianism (2)	Sections 3-5, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002)	
7	Liberalism and Marxism	Ch. 5, "Marxism", Kymlicka (2002)	
8	Liberalism and Communitarianism (1)	Sections 1-7, Ch. 6, "Communitarianism", Kymlicka (2002)	
9	Liberalism and Communitarianism (2)	Sections 8-11, Ch. 6, "Communitarianism", Kymlicka (2002)	

10	Liberal Citizenship	Ch. 7, "Citizenship Theory", Kymlicka (2002)	
11	Liberal Democracy	Anderson, "Democracy: Instrumental vs. Non-Instrumental Value"	
12	Liberalism and Feminism	Ch. 9, "Feminism", Kymlicka (2002)	

### Details of course website

Reading materials, assignments, and lecture notes will be put in a Dropbox folder (the link to this folder will be posted on Blackboard).

### Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)

<b>Teacher</b>	
Name:	Zhong Lei
Office location:	Room 424, Fung King Hey Building
Telephone:	3943 7156
Email:	leizhong@cuhk.edu.hk
Course repository:	

### Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic\\_honesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic_honesty/)

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.