

PHIL4292
Contemporary Anglo-American Philosophy 當代英美哲學
(Subtitle: *Liberalism and Its Critics*)

Course Outline (Preliminary)

Time: W 3:30pm-5:15pm

Location: UCC C2

Tutorial time to be arranged

Course overview

This course will explore important themes in the liberal political tradition, such as liberty, equality, neutrality, democracy, and distributive justice, and pay attention to deep disagreements on those issues among different versions of liberalism. The course will also introduce criticisms of liberalism from other political traditions, including Marxism, communitarianism, racism, and conservatism, and consider responses to those challenges.

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

Learning outcomes

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

Learning activities

1. Lecture: one 2-hour session every week.
2. Tutorial: one 2-hour session every two weeks.
3. Reading: 30-40 pages of required reading every week.

Assessment scheme

Task nature	Weight
Class discussion	10%
Tutorial	30%
Short presentation on the outline of term paper	10%
Term paper (4,000 words in English or 7,000 words in Chinese)	50%

Required resources

Kymlicka, Will (2002) *Contemporary Political Philosophy*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press.
Other selected readings

Recommended resources

Wolff, Jonathan (2006) *An Introduction to Political Philosophy*, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press.
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (<http://plato.stanford.edu>)

Course schedule (* indicates recommended readings)

Week	Topics	Readings	Tutorials
1	Introduction: Liberalism		
2	Liberal Egalitarianism (1)	Sections 1-3, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002) *Rawls, "Justice as Fairness"	
3	Liberal Egalitarianism (2)	Sections 4-5, Ch. 3, "Liberal Equality", Kymlicka (2002) *Frankfurt, "Equality as a Moral Ideal"	
4	Lunar New Year		
5	Libertarianism (1)	Sections 1-2, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002) *Nozick, "Distributive Justice"	
6	Libertarianism (2)	Sections 3-5, Ch. 4, "Libertarianism", Kymlicka (2002) *Machan, "Libertarian Justice"	
7	Liberalism vs. Utilitarianism	Ch. 2, "Utilitarianism", Kymlicka (2002) *Arneson, "Rawls versus Utilitarianism"	
8	Liberalism vs. Marxism	Ch. 5, "Marxism", Kymlicka (2002) *Cohen, "Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat"	

9	Liberalism vs. Communitarianism (1)	Sections 1-7, Ch. 6, "Communitarianism", Kymlicka (2002) *Sandel, "The Procedural Republic and the Unencumbered Self"	
10	Liberalism vs. Communitarianism (2)	Sections 8-11, Ch. 6, "Communitarianism", Kymlicka (2002) *Gutmann, "Communitarian Critics of Liberalism"	
11	Citizenship	Ch. 7, "Citizenship Theory", Kymlicka (2002) *Patten, "The Republican Critique of Liberalism"	
12	Democracy	Wolff, "Who Should Rule?" *Anderson, "Democracy: Instrumental vs. Non-Instrumental Value"	
13	Reading Week		
14	Student Presentations (1)		
15	Student Presentations (2)		

Details of course website

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

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

Teacher	
Name:	Zhong Lei
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TA	
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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/academichonesty/>

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.