

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
2019/20 2nd semester
UGEC2856 Liberalism: Theories and Practices 自由主義：理論與實踐
Course Outline

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Time: Tuesday 15:30-18:15

Venue: LSB C4

Course overview

The course will explore important themes in the liberal tradition of political philosophy, such as liberty, equality, justice, respect and toleration. The course will focus on significant disagreements on some issues from a liberal perspective, such as democracy, civic education, gender inequality, religious participation, hate speech and civil disobedience. 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、公義、尊重和容忍等。本課程將集中探討自由主義在這些問題上的爭論。本課程還會討論其他具爭議性的政制和公共課題，包括民主、公民教育、兩性平等、宗教參與、仇恨言論和公民抗命。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 (only applicable to students admitted to the 4-year curriculum).

Learning outcome

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

Course Arrangement

There will be in total 13 classes in this course, three hours for each. Lecture handouts will be available in class and later in CU eLearning system. However, since the handouts are intended to be schematic, students are expected to take notes during the lecture.

Assessment

Students' final grade will be determined by their performance in the following tasks:

- Class participation + Presentation (group-based) 30%
- The class will be divided into eight groups. Each group will present a topic since week 6. In the presentation, the group should
 - briefly introduce the main arguments in the required reading,
 - evaluate from their own perspective, and

- use real-world examples to support your arguments.

The required reading for presentation can be found in Blackboard.

- Term paper 70%
 - It must be typed and no more than 1600 words in English or 2400 words in Chinese (including citations, footnotes and references, not including bibliography), and will be due on **1/5 (Friday)**. It has to be turned in electronically via Veriguide AND Blackboard. The essay will be evaluated by six criteria, which are defined in Appendix 2. Late essays will be penalized by 5 marks (out of 100) per day. The time of submission depends on the time stamp of your submission on Veriguide.

Schedule

7/1	Week 1: Introduction—What is liberalism?
14/1	Week 2: Freedom and Rights
21/1	Week 3: Equality and Justice
28/1	Lunar New Year Holiday
4/2	Week 4: Respect and Toleration
11/2	Week 5: Democracy
18/2	Week 6: Civic Education (Presentation: Democracy)
25/2	Week 7: Gender Inequality (Presentation: Civic Education)
3/3	Week 8: Religious Participation (Presentation: Gender Inequality)
10/3	Week 9: Nudge (Presentation: Religious Participation)
17/3	Week 10: Global justice (Presentation: Nudge)
24/3	Week 11: Hate Speech (Presentation Global Justice)
31/3	Reading Week
7/4	Week 12: Civil Disobedience (Presentation: Hate Speech)
14/4	Week 13: Liberalism and Confucianism (Presentation: Civil Disobedience)

Outline of Topics and Readings

Week 1: Introduction: What is Liberalism?

Required reading

John Rawls, “Remarks on Political Philosophy” in John Rawls, *Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy*, ed. Samuel Freeman (Belknap Press, 2008), pp.1-22

Further reading

Fabienne Peter, “Political Legitimacy”, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/legitimacy/>

Michael Huemer, *The Problem of Political Authority* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), pp. 3-17.

周保松，〈政治道德的必要〉，收於氏著《政治的道德》（中文大學出版社，2014），頁 3-9

Week 2: Freedom and Rights

Required reading

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy*, 3rd ed. (Polity, 2013), Part 2 Liberty

Further reading

Chandran Kukathas. “Liberty”, in Robert Goodin, Philip Pettit and Thomas Pogge (ed.), *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*, 3rd ed. (Blackwell, 1998), pp. 685–698

Philip Pettit, *On the People’s Terms: A Republican Theory and Model of Democracy* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), Ch. 1

Elizabeth Anderson, *Private Government: How Employers Rule Our Lives (and Why We Don’t Talk about It)* (Princeton University Press, 2017), Ch. 1-2.

Week 3: Equality and Justice

Required reading

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy*, 3rd ed. (Polity, 2013), Part 1 Social Justice

Further reading

Jason Brennan and John Tomasi, “Classical Liberalism”, in David Estlund (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2012), Ch. 6

John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement* (Belknap Press, 2001), Part II

John Tomasi, *Free Market Fairness* (Princeton University Press, 2012), Ch. 4

Week 4: Respect and Toleration

Required reading:

Gerald Gaus, “The Moral Foundations of Liberal Neutrality”, in Thomas Christiano and John Christman (ed.), *Contemporary Debate in Political Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2009), pp. 81-98.

Further reading

Martha Nussbaum, “Perfectionist Liberalism and Political Liberalism”, *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 39, no. 1 (2011): 3–45.

Wall, Steven. “Perfectionism in Politics: A Defense”, In Thomas Christiano and John Christman (ed.), *Contemporary Debate in Political Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2009), pp. 99-118.

Charles Larmore, "Political Liberalism: Its Motivation and Goals", in *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy*, Vol. 1 (Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 63-88

Week 5: Democracy

Required reading

Elizabeth Anderson, "Democracy: Instrumental vs. Non-Instrumental Value", in Thomas Christiano and John Christman (ed.), *Contemporary Debate in Political Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2009), pp. 213-228.

Further reading

Adam Swift, *Political Philosophy*, 3rd ed. (Polity, 2013), Part 5 Democracy

Richard Arneson, "The Supposed Right to a Democratic Say", in Thomas Christiano and John Christman (ed.), *Contemporary Debate in Political Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2009), pp. 197-212.

Kim Sungmoon, "Pragmatic Confucian Democracy: Rethinking the Value of Democracy in East Asia", *Journal of Politics* 29 (1) (2017): 237-249

Week 6: Civic Education

Required reading

Gordon Davis and Blain Neufeld, "Political Liberalism, Civic Education, and Educational Choice", *Social Theory and Practice* 43 (2007): 47-74

Further reading

Amy Gutmann, "Civic Education and Social Diversity", *Ethics* 105 (1995): 64-88.

Kevin Vallier, *Liberal Politics and Public Faith: Beyond Separation* (Routledge, 2014), Ch. 7

Gina Schouten, "Political Liberalism and Autonomy Education--Are citizenship-based argument enough", *Philosophical Studies* 175 (2018): 1071-1093.

Week 7: Gender Inequality

Required reading

Susan Moller Okin, "Forty acres and a mule for women: Rawls and feminism", *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* 4(2) (2005): 233-248

Further reading

Debra Satz, "Gender", in David Estlund (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Philosophy* (Oxford University Press, 2012), Ch. 19

Blain Neufeld and Chad Van Schoelandt, "Political Liberalism, Ethos Justice, and Gender Equality", *Law and Philosophy* 33 (2014): 75-104.

Christie Hartley and Lori Watson, "Feminism, Religion, and Shared Reasons: A Defense of Exclusive Public Reason," *Law and Philosophy* 28 (2009): 493-536

Clare Chambers, "The Marriage-free state", *Proceedings of the Aristotelian Society* Vol. CXIII (2013): 123-143.

Week 8: Religious participation

Required reading

Kevin Vallier, *Liberal Politics and Public Faith* (Routledge, 2014), Ch. 2

Further reading

Kevin Vallier and Christopher Eberle, "Religion in Public Life", on Gerald Gaus and Fred D'Agostino (ed.), *The Routledge Companion to Social and Political Philosophy* (Routledge, 2012), Ch. 69

Lori Watson and Christie Hartley, *Equal Citizenship and Public Reason* (Oxford University Press, 2018), Ch. 4

Paul Weithman, "Inclusivism, Stability, Assurance", in Tom Bailey and Valentina Gentile (ed.), *Rawls and Religion* (Columbia University Press, 2015), Ch. 3

Week 9: Nudge

Required reading

Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, *Nudge: Improving Decisions about Health, Wealth and Happiness* (Yale University Press, 2008), Introduction

Further reading

Gerald Dworkin, "Paternalism", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paternalism/>

Jonathan Quong, *Liberalism without Perfection* (Oxford University Press, 2011), Ch. 3

Yashar Saghai, "Salvaging the Concept of Nudge", *Journal of Medical Ethics* 39 (2013): 487-493

Week 10: Global Justice

Required reading

Peter Singer, *Famine, Affluence, and Morality* (Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 1-50

Further reading

Simon Caney, "Cosmopolitanism and Justice", in Thomas Christiano and John Christman (ed.), *Contemporary Debates in Political Philosophy* (Blackwell, 2009), pp. 387-40

John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard University Press, 1999), especially §3-4, 6-7 and 16.

Thomas Nagel, "The Problem of Global Justice", *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 33 (2005): 113-147

Week 11: Hate Speech

Required reading

Jeremy Waldron, *The Harm in Hate Speech* (Harvard University Press, 2012), Ch. 4

Further reading

Ronald Dworkin, "Foreword", in Ivan Hare and James Weinstein (ed.), *Extreme Speech and Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2009)

Rae Langton, "The Authority of Hate Speech", in *Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Law*, Vol. 3 (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Corey Brettschneider, "When the State Speaks, What Should It Say? The Dilemmas of Freedom of Expression and Democratic Persuasion", *Perspectives on Politics* 8(4) (2010): 1005-1019.

Week 12: Civil Disobedience

Required reading

Candice Delmas, *A Duty to Resist: When Disobedience should be Uncivil* (Oxford University Press, 2018), Ch. 2

Further reading

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, revised edition (Belknap Press, 1999), Section 55, 57, 59

Jason Brennan, *When All Else Fails: The Ethics of Resistance to State Injustice* (Princeton University Press, 2019), Ch. 8.

Candice Delmas, 'The Ethics of Government Whistleblowing', *Social Theory and Practice* 41:1 (2015): 77-105.

Week 13: Liberalism and Confucianism

Required reading

Joseph Chan, *Confucian Perfectionism: A Political Philosophy for Modern Times* (Princeton University Press, 2014), Conclusion

Further reading

Daniel A. Bell, "East Asia and the West: The Impact of Confucianism on Anglo American Political Theory", in John Dryzek, Binnie Honig and Anne Philips (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Political Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 262-280

Kim Sungmoon, *Public Reason Confucianism* (Cambridge University Press, 2016), Ch. 2

Loubna El Amine, *Classical Confucian Political Thought: A new interpretation* (Princeton University Press, 2015), Prologue

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.