

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**  
**Political Science Department**

Political Science 416  
Seminar on Liberalism and American Foreign Policy  
Spring 2016  
Instructor: John Mearsheimer

**Course Description:** This 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 either one 15-page paper or two 7-page papers (75%). Students can choose either option.

I will provide a list of paper topics, from which students will choose one or two. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – June 7. For graduating students, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 1.

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. Please make sure to identify the question you are answering at the start of your paper.

**Readings and Books:** All of the following books are in paperback and have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

- John Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism* (New Press)
- Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (Harvard)
- Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights* (Norton)
- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia* (Belknap)
- Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)
- Uday Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (Chicago)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard)
- Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton)
- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic)

All pieces with \*\* are on Chalk.

**Course Outline:**

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

**2. April 4 (Mon): What is Liberalism?**

- Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism*, read entire book.
- Alan Ryan, *The Making of Modern Liberalism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012), chapter 1. \*\*
- Ronald Dworkin, *A Matter of Principle* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1985), chapter 8. \*\*

**3. April 11 (Mon): Progressive liberalism**

- Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" *National Interest*, Summer 1989 \*\*
- Rawls, *Law of Peoples*, read entire book.

#### **4. April 18 (Mon): Liberal America**

-- Hartz, *Liberal Tradition in America*, read entire book.

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

#### **5. April 25 (Mon): Liberalism and Nationalism**

-- Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*, read entire book.

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

#### **6. May 2 (Mon): American Nationalism**

-- Huntington, *Who Are We*, read entire book.

-- Rogers M. Smith, *Civic Ideals: Conflicting Visions of Citizenship in U.S. History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997), pp. 1-39.

#### **7. May 9 (Mon): Universal Human Rights**

-- Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights*, read entire book.

-- Moyn, *The Last Utopia*, read entire book.

#### **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 entire book.

#### **9. May 23 (Mon): Liberal Peace**

-- 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. \*\*

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

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

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

#### **10. June 3 (Wed): Just War Theory**

-- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, read entire book.

The University of Chicago is dedicated to the proposition that education consists of serious and communal inquiry into such questions, under the guidance of teachers who have reflected at length upon these questions. As one student described it, "This experience is like waking up; via such questions, one is not transported to a theoretical and remote world, but rather finds oneself in the familiar world, revealed by a new light." The atmosphere of shared intellectual excitement is what I have missed most since I left the University of Chicago. The University of Chicago does not employ numerical cut-offs when evaluating applications for admission. Of the 1,220 students in the Class of 2008, seventy-eight percent graduated in the top ten percent of their high school classes. The University of Chicago was founded in 1890 by the American Baptist Education Society and oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, who later described the University of Chicago as the best investment I ever made. The land for the new university, in the recently annexed suburb of Hyde Park, was donated by Marshall Field, owner of the Chicago department store that bears his name. William Rainey Harper, the first president, imagined a university that would combine an American-style undergraduate liberal arts college with a German-style graduate research university. The University of Chicago quickly fulfilled this vision. The University of Chicago (UChicago, U of C, or Chicago) is a private research university in Chicago, Illinois. Founded in 1890, its main campus is located in Chicago's Hyde Park neighborhood. It enrolled 16,445 students in Fall 2019, including 6,286 undergraduates and 10,159 graduate students. The University of Chicago is ranked among the top universities in the world by major education publications, and it is among the most selective in the United States.