

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

Political Science 416  
Seminar on Liberalism and American Foreign Policy  
Spring 2019  
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 every session, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (33%), and two 7-page papers (33% each).

I will provide students with a list of paper topics from which they can choose two.

Both papers will be due in my office (Pick 416) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – June 11. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date.

For graduating seniors, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 5.

The papers must be no longer than 7 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font (12).

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* (Harvest)
- Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights* (Norton)
- Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia* (Belknap)
- Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)
- John Mearsheimer, *Great Delusion* (Yale)
- Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*. (Penguin)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard)
- Yael Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism* (Princeton)
- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (Basic)

All pieces with \*\* are on **Canvas**.

**Course Outline:**

- 1. April 1 (Mon): Organizational Meeting**
- 2. April 8 (Mon): What is Liberalism?**

Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism*, read entire book.

Mearsheimer, *Great Delusion*, chaps 2-4.

Alan Ryan, *The Making of Modern Liberalism* (Princeton University Press, 2012), chapter 1. \*\*

### **3. April 15 (Mon): Liberal Optimism – I**

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. \*\*

Francis Fukuyama, “The End of History?” *National Interest*, Summer 1989 \*\*

Rawls, *Law of Peoples*, read entire book.

### **4. April 22 (Mon): Liberal Optimism – II**

Pinker, *Better Angels*, read entire book.

### **5. April 29 (Mon): Liberalism and Nationalism**

Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*, read entire book.

### **6. May 6 (Mon): Liberalism, Nationalism, and Realism**

Mearsheimer, *Great Delusion*, chapters 5-8.

### **7. May 13 (Mon): American Liberalism**

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. \*\*

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

### **8. May 20 (Mon): American Nationalism**

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

### **9. May 27 (Mon): Universal Human Rights**

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

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

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

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