

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

Political Science 416  
Seminar on Liberalism and American Foreign Policy  
Spring 2014  
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 classes, and participate in discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%) and one 15-page paper (75%).

I will provide a list of paper topics, from which students will choose one. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday of exam week – June 10. For graduating seniors, papers will be due no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 4.

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.

**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)
- Francis Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads* (Yale)
- Louis Hartz, *The Liberal Tradition in America* (Harvest)
- Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?* (Simon & Schuster)
- John Ikenberry et al, *The Crisis of American Foreign Policy* (Princeton)
- Uday Mehta, *Liberalism and Empire* (Chicago)
- Reinhold Niebuhr, *The Irony of American History* (Chicago)
- John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples* (Harvard)
- Rogers M. Smith, *Civic Ideals* (Yale)
- Yael Tamir, *Liberalism and Nationalism* (Princeton)

All pieces with \*\* are on Chalk.

**Course Outline:**

**1. March 31 (Mon): Organizational Meeting**

**2. April 7 (Mon): What is Liberalism?**

- Gray, *Two Faces of Liberalism*, read all.
- 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. \*\*
- Sheldon Wolin, *Politics and Vision* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2006), chapter 15. \*\*

**3. April 14 (Mon): Liberalism and Nationalism**

- Tamir, *Liberal Nationalism*, read all.

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

#### **4. April 21 (Mon): The American Case -- I**

-- Hartz, *Liberal Tradition in America*, read all.

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

#### **5. April 28 (Mon): American Case -- II**

-- Smith, *Civic Ideals*, read all.

#### **6. May 5 (Mon): American Case -- III**

-- Huntington, *Who Are We*, read all.

-- Niebuhr, *Irony of American History*, read all.

#### **7. May 12 (Mon): The Bush Doctrine**

-- Fukuyama, *America at the Crossroads*, read all.

-- Ikenberry et al., *Crisis of American Foreign Policy*, read all.

#### **8. May 19 (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 all.

#### **9. May 28 (Wed): Liberal Peace**

-- Rawls, *Law of Peoples*, read all.

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

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

#### **10. June 2 (Mon): Liberalism and the Balance of Power**

-- 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. \*\*

-- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: Norton, 2001), chapter 1. \*\*

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