

Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
Political Science 191 - 5
Fall 2022
Prof. Steven Fish
M 3-5, Social Sciences Bldg 791
Office hours: Tu 5:30-7:30, Social Sciences Bldg 744

JUNIOR SEMINAR: FOUNDATIONS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT AND ACTION

This course aims to provide students with a rigorous introduction to core topics in political theory and applied political theory. The course centers on four major themes: power, equality, freedom, and community. The syllabus is divided into sections that focus on each of those themes, respectively, as well as a final section that touches on all four.

Our class sessions will focus on discussions of course readings. Students must complete all readings for the week in advance of our seminar meetings. All readings are available electronically on the bcourses page. Requirements consist of two short papers, a final paper, and attendance and active participation in seminar discussions. Grades will be based on a 100-point scale: each short paper counts for 15 points (for 30 points in total); the final paper for 30 points; and attendance and participation for 40 points.

Use of any electronic or internet devices, including laptops and cellphones, is not allowed during class.

Our books for the course are:

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*, trans. Constance Farrington. Grove Press, 1994.
Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2005.
Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* (New York: The New Press, 2016).
The Koran, trans. N. J. Dawood. Penguin, 2004.
T. H. Marshall and Tom Bottomore, *Citizenship and Social Class*. Pluto, 1992.
Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, trans. Walter Kaufmann. Vintage, 1989.
Bertrand Russell, *Power: A New Social Analysis*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2004.
Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Dover, 1996.

Syllabus

Week I (Aug 29): Introduction to the Course

(no reading)

PART I: POWER

Week 2 (Sept 12): Thinking about Power

Bertrand Russell, *Power* [1938] (entire).

Week 3 (Sept 19): Power as Domination

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* [1886] (entire).

PART II: EQUALITY

Week 4 (Sept 26): Foundational Justifications for Equality

The Bible: Isaiah, chs. 56-58; Amos (entire); Matthew, chs. 5-7; I Corinthians chs. 7-II; James (entire).

Søren Kierkegaard, “Neighbor Love,” in Søren Kierkegaard, *Provocations: Spiritual Writings of Kierkegaard* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2007), pp. 97-101.

The Koran: suras 4 (“Women”), 16 (“The Bee”), 24 (“Light”), 30 (“The Greeks”), 31 (“Luqmān”), 39 (“The Throngs”), 40 (“The Believer”), 49 (“The Chambers”), 53 (“The Star”), 54 (“The Moon”), 57 (“Iron”), 58 (“She Who Pleaded”), 63 (“The Hypocrites”), 81 (“The Cessation”), 82 (“The Cataclysm”), 89 (“The Dawn”), 90 (“The City”), 98 (“The Proof”), and 102 (“Worldly Gain”).

“Buddha-Nature,” in *The Teaching of Buddha* (Tokyo: Kosaido, 2000), pp. 65-80.

Week 5 (Oct 3): Class

Karl Marx, excerpts from *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* [1844]; Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” [1848]; and Karl Marx, “On Imperialism in India” [1853], in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York: Norton, 1978), pp. 70-81, 469-500, 659-64.

Marshall and Bottomore, *Citizenship and Social Class* (Marshall only).

Week 6 (Oct 10): Gender

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* [1792] (entire).

“Ain’t I a Woman,” speech originally delivered extemporaneously by Sojourner Truth at the Women’s Rights Convention, May 29, 1851, Akron, Ohio, as recalled and rendered by Frances Dana Barker Gage, 1863.

Walt Whitman, "Children of Adam," from *Leaves of Grass* [1855] (New York: Barnes and Noble, 2004), pp. 129-153.

Week 7 (Oct 17): Race and Nation

Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* [1952] (entire).

W. E. B. Du Bois, "The Negro and the Warsaw Ghetto," *Jewish Life*, May 1952.

Martin Luther King, "Speech on the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the Anti-apartheid Movement in South Africa," December 7, 1964, London.

First preliminary essay (covers material weeks 1-7)

PART III: FREEDOM

Week 8 (Oct 24): Freedom as Individual Autonomy

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "The American Scholar" [1837]; "Self-Reliance" [1841]; and "The Oversoul" [1841], in *Ralph Waldo Emerson: Essays and Lectures* (New York: The Library of America, 1983), pp. 53-71, 259-82, 385-400.

Week 9 (Oct 31): Freedom as Absence of State-Imposed Constraint

Herbert Spencer, *Man versus the State* [1884], in Herbert Spencer, *Political Writings*, ed. John Offer (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 63-105, 140-69.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Politics" [1844], in *Ralph Waldo Emerson: Essays and Lectures* (New York: The Library of America, 1983), pp. 559-71.

Week 10 (Nov 7): Freedom as Rights

Benjamin Constant, excerpts from "Principles of Politics Applicable to All Representative Governments" [1815], in Benjamin Constant, *Political Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 171-213, 227-305.

Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty" [1958], in Isaiah Berlin, *Four Essays on Liberty* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992), pp. 118-72.

Week 11 (Nov 14): Freedom as Inner Integrity

The Bible: the book of Galatians (entire).

The Koran: suras 11 (“Hūd”), 12 (“Joseph”), 25 (“Al-Furqān”), 42 (“Counsel”), and 70 (“The Ladders”).

“Causation”; “The Theory of Mind-Only and the Real State of Things”; and “The Practical Way of Attainment: Sacred Sayings,” in *The Teaching of Buddha* (Tokyo: Kosaido, 2000), pp. 38-64, 184-92.

“The Yoga of Renunciation”; “Divine Traits and Demonic Traits”; and “Freedom through Renunciation,” in *Bhagavad Gita*, Stephen Mitchell, trans. (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2000), pp. 81-87, 169-74, 182-98.

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Practical Reason* [1788] (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Macmillan, 1993), pp. 28-30, 75-92, 120-38, 149-68.

Second preliminary essay (covers material weeks 8-11)

PART IV: COMMUNITY

Week 12 (Nov 21): The Community and the Individual

Emile Durkheim, *Suicide* [1897], pp. 35-39, 152-70, 208-16, 241-58, 297-325, 361-92.

Week 13 (Ap 19): Community as Lived Experience

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath* [1951] (entire).

PART V: POWER, EQUALITY, FREEDOM, AND COMMUNITY

Week 14 (Nov 28): A Case Study

Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* (New York: The New Press, 2016).