

LWSO413 S01
Liberalism and Legal Issues
Fall 2015
TuTh 14:00-15:15
SA 017

Instructor: CGK Atkins
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Office Hours: TBA, by appointment

Additional Information

Students should have a prior knowledge of John Locke and Edmund Burke's writings, as well as the Canadian Constitution. Knowledge of other political and legal theorists would also be helpful.

Course Description

This course examines the conception of rights and freedoms in J.S. Mill and John Rawls other liberal philosophers. It also examines legal theorists who are critical of liberalism. It analyses the manner in which these theoretical discussions have been incorporated into contemporary state constitutions and statutes as well as organizations mandates and ethics' guidelines. (The course will particularly emphasize Canadian legal and social issues).

Objectives of the Course

Students should gain a detailed and subtle understanding of liberalism and its adoption by Canada and other nations as a legal model. They should also demonstrate strong analytical skills and an ability to present both oral and written arguments in a both a sophisticated and coherent manner. Finally, students will be asked to creatively apply their theoretical understanding to concrete social and legal problems

Textbooks and Readings:

John Stuart Mill – *On Liberty and Other Essays*

John Rawls – *Justice as Fairness*

Peter Singer – *In Defense of Animals: The Second Wave; Practical Ethics*

Charles Taylor - *Modern Social Imaginaries*

Martha Nussbaum – *Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality and Species Membership*
Will Kymlicka - *Multicultural Odysseys: Navigating the New International Politics of Diversity*

Readings from EJournals and other sources – as needed.

Assignments and Evaluation

Mill and Rawls, Singer: In Class Test – (20%) identifications & comparative essay question.

Taylor, Nussbaum and Kymlicka: In Class Test – (25%) identifications & comparative essay question.

Final Take Home – (35%) short answer questions & essay questions.

Class Participation (20%)- determined by 3 factors: attendance, participation, quality of interaction with others.

A student must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing mark.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed from the drop box the following morning and stamped with the CURRENT day's date, then placed in the instructor's mailbox.

With regard to class participation, attendance is obviously key to obtaining a portion of this mark. However, mere attendance is NOT enough. Students need to demonstrate a familiarity with the reading materials IN CLASS and be able to engage in thoughtful discussions. (Mere verbosity is also not satisfactory if a student's conversation lacks coherent though or relevant commentary.) As such, the class participation grade is thus a combination of attendance (which will be taken each class) and cogent participation.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: NO

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information:

Students may use laptops and tablets in class to take notes in class and, to search the internet **when asked to do so by the instructor**.

In general, Phones, Smartphones and Music devices **MUST** be turned off or placed “on vibrate.” If you must answer a call, please leave the room prior to doing so as a courtesy to the rest of the class.

When used in a manner that is directly related to student learning, electronic devices are generally acceptable subject to the following conditions:

1. its use does not distract the student and/or those students seated nearby
2. any student who uses an electronic device may be asked to leave the class immediately if his or her conduct with the device becomes unacceptable.
3. ALL electronic devices will NOT be permitted during in class tests.

Policy for Late Assignments:

If a student requires an extension, it is important that s/he contact the instructor as soon as possible and NOT the night before the assignment is due. As the main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters, you must arrange with me how and when to hand in late material.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. "If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment."

Writing Skills Statement:

All written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Grading System:

The following grading system is used in the Faculty of Arts:

| | Grading Scale |
|-----|---------------|
| A+ | 96-100 |
| A | 90-95.99 |
| A - | 85-89.99 |
| B+ | 80-84.99 |
| B | 75-79.99 |
| B- | 70-74.99 |
| C+ | 65-69.99 |
| C | 60-64.99 |
| C- | 55-59.99 |
| D+ | 53-54.99 |
| D | 50-52.99 |
| F | 0-49 |

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Passing Grades

A passing grade on all assignments is required to pass the course.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

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When used in a manner that is directly related to student learning, electronic devices are generally acceptable subject to the following conditions:

4. its use does not distract the student and/or those students seated nearby,
5. any student who uses an electronic device may be asked to leave the class immediately if his or her conduct with the device becomes unacceptable or distracting and;
6. ALL electronic devices will NOT be permitted during in class tests.

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

Ethics Research

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Faculty Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a “make up” test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a “make up” test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Academic Accommodation Policy

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of

accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Student Representation

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at [***YOUR location***]. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk

The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

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|-------------------|--|
| 8 September 2015 | Course Orientation, |
| 10 September 2015 | Introductory Lecture; |
| 15 September 2015 | <i>Mill On Liberty</i> |
| 17 September 2015 | <i>Mill On Liberty, On the Subjection of Women</i> |
| 22 September 2015 | <i>Mill, On the Subjection of Women, Utilitarianism</i> |
| 24 September 2015 | <i>Utilitarianism</i> ; Mill - summary, class discussion |
| 29 September 2015 | John Rawls |
| 1 October 2015 | John Rawls |
| 6 October 2015 | John Rawls, Peter Singer |
| 8 October 2015 | Singer |
| 13 October 2013 | Singer |
| 15 October 2015 | Singer |
| 20 October 2015 | In class TEST: Mill, Rawls, Singer |
| 22 October 2015 | Taylor |

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|------------------|---|
| 27 October 2015 | Taylor |
| 29 November 2015 | Taylor/Nussbaum |
| 3 November 2015 | Nussbaum |
| 5 November 2015 | Nussbaum |
| 10 November 2015 | NO CLASS |
| 12 November 2015 | READING DAYS |
| 17 November 2015 | Kymlicka |
| 19 November 2015 | Kymlicka |
| 24 November 2015 | In class TEST: Taylor, Nussbaum, Kymlicka |
| 26 November 2015 | Review . . . |
| 1 December 2015 | TAKE HOME HANDED OUT |
| 3 December 2015 | NO CLASS |
| 8 December 2015 | TAKE HOME HANDED IN. |