Junior Colloquium: Liberalism and Its Discontents
Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:20-11:40a
Spring 2016    CSS 371

Instructor: Kerwin Kaye
Office: PAC 105
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1-2pm (and by appointment)
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Class Description:
This course presents an overview of social and political theories developed in the post-World War II period. It focuses particular attention upon developments within Liberal political theory during this time, examining this scholarship both for the insights it offers and for the ways in which these ideas have been used to obscure oppressive social relations. Considering the general contours of the Liberal tradition — particularly its relationship to forms of social domination such as colonialism, racism, class inequality, and gender and sexual oppression — the course moves through an examination of canonical thinkers who have challenged, contributed to, or appropriated Liberal social thought. Taking the ruminations of Nazi jurist Carl Schmidt as a problematic yet demanding provocation, the course asks in part how successfully Liberal theorists have resolved the dilemmas Schmidt identifies within Liberalism (or if, indeed, authoritarian tendencies pervade Liberal social thought, as Schmidt contends). Theorists within the Liberal tradition such as Friedrich Hayek, Hannah Arendt, and Jürgen Habermas are joined by critics such as Franz Fanon, Carole Pateman, and Michel Foucault in this critical overview of contemporary Liberal social theory. Through this examination of recent interventions in Liberal thinking regarding the social, the class is meant to provide an opportunity to think through ways in which various contemporary approaches to social issues both invoke and reformulate political debates of long standing.
Course Requirements

There are four requirements for the class:

— attend all classes and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings
— a series of eight response papers (approximately 2-3 pages each) written in relation to the daily readings. Four of these are to be completed before Spring Break, and four after. Your first paper should address one of the first three days of reading (Jan 26th, Jan 31st, or Feb 2nd), and your final paper should address one of the last three days of reading (May 2nd, May 4th, or May 9th). You do not need to address all of a given day’s readings in your response, but you must address readings that constitute at least 15 pages
— a proposal for your final paper, including both topic and annotated bibliography of at least three key sources. The proposal is due on Thursday, March 2nd
— a 15-20 page final paper. The final paper is due on Wednesday, May 17th at 5pm.

Response papers must be written on readings that we have not yet discussed, and must be emailed to me by 6pm on the day prior to our discussion. No response papers will be accepted on a given reading after we have discussed it in class. In the case of the final paper, late papers will be accepted only in extreme circumstances (documented medical emergency, etc.).

Paper Guidelines

Response papers should do three things:
(1) summarize the author’s argument
(2) think through the implications of the author’s argument for at least one contemporary situation (highlighting the usefulness and/or shortcomings of the author’s framework)
(3) offer your own opinion/analysis. Response papers will be graded based upon the your ability to grasp and present an author’s analysis, to usefully apply their framework, and the depth and insight you display in your own assessment of their work

When emailing me your paper, send it both as an attached file and with the text pasted into the body of the email (in case I have difficulty with the attachment).

Late papers will suffer as grade deduction as follows: between 15 minutes and 1 hour (3.5%); between 1 hour and 2 hours (5%); between 2 and 24 hours (10%); each additional day follows the same rate of loss (3.5% after the first 15 minutes, up to 10% more each day). Maximum lateness penalty = 50%.

Please double-space all of your papers, and use one inch margins on all sides. Please also use Times New Roman (12 point) as your font.

Plagiarism will not be excused; if in doubt, provide a citation.

Grading

Class attendance/participation: 20%
Eight response papers: 5% each (40% total)
Final paper proposal and biblio: 5%
Final paper: 35%
Course Materials:

Course materials are available via a Dropbox link:
www.dropbox.com/sh/uv5gfdp9zt8y369/AAAnGaBX3UipS6QtWOpbiO4va?dl=0

Several books are also available at Broad Street Books and on reserve in the library:
- Carole Pateman - The Sexual Contract
- Jürgen Habermas - The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere
- Carl Schmitt - Political Theology, The Concept of the Political, The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy (three books)
- Hannah Arendt - On Revolution
- Friedrich Hayek - The Road to Serfdom
- Michel Foucault - The Birth of Biopolitics
- Samuel Moyn - The Last Utopia: Human Rights in History
- Didier Fassan - Humanitarian Reason: A Moral History of the Present

Use of Electronic Devices within the Classroom

I allow the use of electronic devices only for purposes of taking notes or looking at course materials. Please, no web surfing of any sort (unless requested!).

Disability Resources

I am happy to accommodate concerns regarding disabilities. Wesleyan also asks that the following statement be included in all course syllabi:

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-5581 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.

Key Dates

- Wednesday, February 1st: first response paper due by 6pm (prior to this date is fine)
- Thursday, March 2nd: proposal for final paper due (with annotated bibliography)
- March 10th through March 27th: mid-semester recess
- Tuesday, May 9th: last day of class
- Wednesday, May 17th: final paper due by 5pm
Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Week 1: Revisiting the Classic Tradition

Thursday, January 26th:

Week 2: Revisiting the Classic Tradition, continued

Tuesday, January 31st:

Thursday, February 2nd:
Habermas, Jürgen. 1989 [1962]. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, pp. 1-5, 14-43, 57-67, 102-40 (83 pgs)

Week 3: Carl Schmitt’s Anti-Liberalism

Tuesday, February 7th:
Schmitt, Carl. 2007 [1927]. The Concept of the Political, pp. 19-58, 69-79 (51 pgs)

Thursday, February 9th:
Schmitt, Carl. 1985 [1923]. The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy, pp. 1-50 (50 pgs)
Week 4: Hannah Arendt, part 1: Totalitarianism / The Political and the Social

Tuesday, February 14th:
Arendt, Hannah. 1973 [1951]. The Origins of Totalitarianism, pp. 305-26, 460-79 (41 pgs)

Thursday, February 16th:

Week 5: Hannah Arendt, part 2: Public vs. Private / The Right to Have Rights

Tuesday, February 21st:

Thursday, February 23rd:
Arendt, Hannah. 1994 [1943]. “We Refugees,” in Altogether Elsewhere, pp. 110-9 (10 pgs)
Week 6: Friedrich Hayek and the Triumph of Capital
Final paper proposal with annotated bibliography due March 2nd

Friedrich von Hayek, 1899-1992

Milton Friedman, 1912-2006  Ayn Rand, 1905-1982

Tuesday, February 28th:
Hayek, Friedrich. 2001 [1944]. The Road to Serfdom, pp. 65-111, 134-170, 210-38 (111 pgs)

Thursday, March 2nd:
Rand, Ayn. 1999. Excerpts from The Fountainhead and “The Virtue of Selfishness,” in The Ayn Rand Reader, pp. 3-17, 70-9, 144-8 (28 pgs)
Week 7: Jürgen Habermas and the Public Sphere

Tuesday, March 7th:
Habermas, Jürgen. 1989 [1962]. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere, pp. 141-80, 201-26 (65 pgs)

Thursday, March 9th:
Fraser, Nancy. 1990. “Rethinking the Public Sphere: A Contribution to the Critique of Actually Existing Democracy,” Social Text, 25/26: 56-80 (22 pgs)

Midsemester Recess!
Week 8: Frantz Fanon, Decolonialization, and Human Rights

Tuesday, March 28th:
- Fanon, Frantz. 2004 [1961]. The Wretched of the Earth, pp. 1-62, 249-51, 293-6, 311-6 (77 pgs)
- Hart, Benji. 2015. “In Support of Baltimore; or, Smashing Police Cars is Logical Political Strategy,” in Taking Sides: Revolutionary Solidarity and the Poverty of Liberalism, pp. 129-36 (8 pgs)
- View: The Battle of Algiers (available both via YouTube and in our Dropbox folder)

Thursday, March 30th:
Week 9: Michel Foucault, part 1: Revisioning Power and Freedom

Tuesday, April 4th:
Foucault, Michel. 1978. The History of Sexuality, volume 1, pp. 3-35, 92-109, 135-59 (72 pgs)
Kulick, Don, and Deborah Cameron. 2003. “A Nutshell Version of Foucault’s Concept of Power,” in Language and Sexuality, pp. 112 (1 pg)
Kaye, Kerwin. 2011. “A Distinctly non-Definitive Glossary of Foucauldian Terms” (4 pgs)

Thursday, April 6th:
Cruikshank, Barbara. 1999. The Will to Empower: Democratic Citizens and Other Subjects, pp. 1-70, 104-21 (88 pgs)

Week 10: Michel Foucault, part 2: Birth of Biopolitics

Tuesday, April 11th:
Foucault, Michel. 2008 [2004]. The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, pp. 27-100, 117-57 (86 pgs)

Thursday, April 13th:
**Week 11: Humanitarian Reason**

Didier Fassin  
Miriam Ticktin

**Tuesday, April 18th:**

**Thursday, April 20th:**

**Week 12: Human Rights — The Last Utopia?**

Samuel Moyn  
Ali Miller  
Inderpal Grewal

**Tuesday, April 25th:**

**Thursday, April 27th:**
Week 13: Postcolonial Queer Critique

Tuesday, May 2\textsuperscript{nd}:
Rodríguez, Ileana. 2009. \textit{Liberalism at its Limits}, pp. 1-94 (94 pgs)

Thursday, May 4\textsuperscript{th}:

Week 14: Liberal Ecology?

Tuesday, May 9\textsuperscript{th}:

Final paper due: Wednesday, May 17\textsuperscript{th}, 5pm