

**Political Science 200**  
**Introduction to Political Ideas**  
Hunter College  
Fall 2011

Professor Leonard Feldman

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Professor Feldman's Contact Information:

Office: HW1702

Office Hours:

Email: [lfeldman@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:lfeldman@hunter.cuny.edu)

Phone: (212) 396-6246

This course is designed to introduce students to the interpretive practice of political theory by examining some central arguments over the meaning and application of core political ideas. We will focus on competing understandings of core political ideas such as freedom, legitimacy, human nature and equality as they are developed in the liberal, conservative and socialist traditions. We will then apply what we have studied to a contemporary political controversy: the debate in the U.S. over the death penalty.

**Office of Accessibility**

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**Academic Integrity**

Any deliberate borrowing of the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgment of the source is intellectual theft and is called plagiarism. It is not plagiarism to borrow the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others if the source is clearly and specifically acknowledged. Students who consult such critical material and wish to include some of the insights, ideas, or statements encountered must provide full citations in an appropriate form. Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

## **A very important note about writing assignments**

In addition to handing in a hard copy in class, you are required to submit **both the five page paper** and the **take-home final** to turnitin.com. To do so, visit <http://turnitin.com> and set up an account if you do not have one already. You will enter the following course ID and password:

Course ID:

Password:

## **Requirements**

- A two page reflection essay due \_\_\_\_ (5%)
- An in class mid-term exam (essays and short answer questions) on \_\_\_\_ (30%)
- A five page paper due \_\_\_\_ (30%)
- An 8-10 page take-home exam due \_\_\_\_ (35%)

Late paper policy: Unless you have a documented medical emergency, late papers will be deducted one-half of one grade for every day they are late.

*Your paper does not count as handed in until I have received BOTH a paper copy from you directly, and an electronic copy successfully uploaded to turnitin.com.*

## **Additional Expectations**

You are expected to show up for lecture **on time**. Coming in late is disruptive to other students.

No texting or other cell phone use during class time.

Laptops may be used in class but only for note-taking and/or accessing electronic copies of the readings. (Don't worry, your facebook will still be there when class is over.)

## **Blackboard**

I will make extensive use of Blackboard throughout the term. Some readings (marked with an asterisk on the class schedule below) will be made available as PDF documents on the Blackboard site for our class. Web links in the schedule below will also be put on blackboard. Review sheets, essay topics and reading questions will also be posted there for you to download. Finally, I will also make use of Blackboard's communication functions to send important email announcements to you. Thus it is very important for you to (a) check Blackboard regularly and (b) make sure that the email address that Blackboard has registered for you is an email address you check regularly. If it isn't, change your email address on Blackboard by clicking "Update Email" on the upper left-hand tools menu.

## **Books to Buy at Shakespeare & Co:**

John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (Hackett)

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (Penguin)

David Garland, *Peculiar Institution: America's Death Penalty in an Age of Abolition*

Andrew Heywood, *Political Ideologies: An Introduction*

## **Schedule of Classes and Reading Assignments:**

### **I. Mapping Political Arguments**

TH Introduction to contested political ideas

M Preliminary Concepts and Definitions. How do people adopt their political ideologies? Three ways of “mapping” ideologies: the linear spectrum, the horseshoe, and the double axis

Reading: Heywood, pp. 1-22

### **II. Classical and Modern Liberalism**

TH Core themes of Liberalism: Liberty

Heywood, chapter two, pp. 25-53

Labor Day, No class

M Classical Liberalism: The State of Nature and Private Property

Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, chpts 1, 2, 3 and 5

**Reflection paper due at the beginning of class.**

TH Classical Liberalism: Formation of the State

Locke, *Second Treatise*, chpts. 6 (57), 8, 9, 11, 12, 14

M Classical Liberalism: the Right of Rebellion

Locke, *Second Treatise*, chpts 18, 19

Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet”

TH Modern Liberalism: Positive Liberty; Internal tensions

Heywood, pp. 53-64

T.H. Green "Lecture on Liberal Legislation and Freedom of Contract"

Charles Kessler, "How will Obama's liberalism shape America?"

### **III. Classical and Modern Conservatism; the New Right**

M Core Themes of Conservatism: Ordered Liberty

Heywood, chapter three, pp. 65-85

TH Classical Conservatism

Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

TH Classical Conservatism, continued

Burke, *Reflections* finish

M Modern Conservatism

Michael Oakeshott\*, "On Being Conservative"

TH The "New Right": Economic Conservatism ("Neo-Liberalism") and Social Conservatism ("Neo-Conservatism")

Heywood, pp. 88-98

Milton Friedman, "Public Schools: Make Them Private"

Irving Kristol, "The Neoconservative Persuasion"

Review sheet out

Film: "Commanding Heights: The Battle for the World's Economy" (excerpt)

### Columbus Day No Class

TH Internal Tensions within the New Right

Thomas Frank, "Lie Down For America"

Heywood\*, excerpt

Tea Party reading TBA

**M: Midterm Exam**

#### IV. Socialism and the New Left

TH The Economic Left: Core themes of socialism

Heywood, chapter four, pp. 99-111, 118-123  
Karl Marx, "Estranged Labor"

M The Communist Manifesto and the radical conception of equality

Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* parts one and two

TH Post-Marx: Orthodox Communism

Heywood, pp. 123-129  
V.I. Lenin, *State and Revolution* excerpt

M Post-Marx: Social Democracy

Heywood, pp. 111-118, 129-142  
Eduard Bernstein *Evolutionary Socialism*

TH From the Economic to the Cultural Left: Feminism

Heywood, pp. 230-254  
Betty Friedan, "Our Revolution Is Unique"  
Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference"

M Multiculturalism and Liberation Movements

Heywood, pp. 147-151 and 310-331  
Iris Young\*, "The Five Faces of Oppression"

TH Tensions between the Economic Left and the Cultural Left

Nancy Fraser\*, "From Redistribution to Recognition?" *New Left Review*

## V. Interpreting and Applying Political Arguments: The Death Penalty Debate

M A brief history of capital punishment in the United States

*Furman, Gregg*, recent legal cases summarized, race and the death penalty

### Paper Due in class

TH Film: *Lethal Solution*

David Garland, *Peculiar Institution*

M Death Penalty and Contemporary Constitutional Democracy

Garland, *Peculiar Institution*

TH : Thanksgiving No Class

M Capital Punishment and the Politics of Resentment

Garland, *Peculiar Institution*

TH Liberalism, Retribution and Capital Punishment

Beccaria\*, "Of Crimes and Punishments"

Kant\*, *Metaphysics of Morals* part one excerpt

M Contemporary Liberals and Conservatives Debate Capital Punishment

Walter Berns\*, "The Morality of Anger" *Punishment and the Death Penalty*  
*Callins v. Collins* dissent (Justice Harry Blackmun)

TH Critical Criminology

Marx, "Capital Punishment" (1853)

Bohm, "Karl Marx and the Death Penalty"

M Feminism and the Death Penalty

Barbara Cruikshank\*, "Feminism and Punishment," *Signs*

Laura Huey\*, "The Abolition of Capital Punishment as a Feminist Issue"  
*Feminist Review*

**Take-home final exam due:**