History of Political Ideas: “Liberalism and its critics”

Course description
This course is intended to:

1. Help students improve their ability to read and analyze texts in political theory and acquire a basic competence in the methods of the history of political thought.
2. Introduce students to the development of Western political thought in the modern and contemporary periods.
3. Give students a grasp of the issues involved in the development of Western liberal political thought and the thought of its critics, and in particular to go beyond the narrow economic conception of liberalism and the various contradictory definitions found in the popular press.
4. Enable students to apply political theory and the methodology of the history of political ideas in the context of other disciplines and with regard to contemporary issues.

Prerequisites
None, but some previous knowledge of political philosophy.

Lectures: Prof. Alan Kahan & Dr. Catherine Marshall
Required readings per week + recommended readings

Syllabus

1. CM 1: Methodology
   Liberalism and its Critics (A. Kahan)
2. CM 2: Locke and Hume (C. Marshall)
   Two Genealogies of Liberalism
3. CM 3: Smith and Constant (C. Marshall)
   Past and present: Liberalism and political morality
4. CM 4: Mill and Bentham (C. Marshall)  
How to find a compromise: Utilitarianism and Liberalism

5. CM 5: Hegel and Kant (A. Kahan)  
Ancient Freedom, Modern Freedom, Moral Freedom

6. CM 6: Tocqueville and Marx (A. Kahan)  
Modern Freedom, Modern Despotism

7. CM 7: Maistre, Syllabus Errorum, Newman (A. Kahan)  
God Damn Liberalism?

8. CM 8: Nietzsche and Freud (A. Kahan)  
Is Freedom the Point?

9. CM 9: Morris and Hobhouse (C. Marshall)  
From one century to another: criticizing traditional Liberalism and the birth of New Liberalism

10. CM 10: Ortega y Gasset and Berlin (C. Marshall)  
Critical Liberalism and the defense of an open society

11. CM 11: Keynes and Hayek (A. Kahan)  
Intellectuals, Liberalism and the question of social justice

12. CM 12: Rawls and Nozick (C. Marshall)  
Rethinking Liberalism

Bibliography:
List of readings for the lecture given at the beginning of the semester

Books (indicative):

5. Boucher, David & Kelly, Paul, Political Thinkers From Socrates to the Present (OUP, 2003)
7. Cassirer, Ernst, Kant’s Life and Thought (Yale University Press, 1981)
13. Forsyth, Murray & Keens-Soper, Maurice (eds), The Political Classics: Green to Dworkin (OUP, 1996)
16. Haddock, Bruce & Sutch, Peter (eds), Multiculturalism, Identity and Rights (Routledge, 2003)
17. Haddock, Bruce, A History of Political Thought: 1789 to the present (Cambridge, 2005)
18. Haddock, Bruce, An Introduction to Historical Thought (London, 1980)
23. Kelly, Paul (ed), Multiculturalism Reconsidered (Polity, 2002)
27. Kymlicka, Will, Contemporary Political Philosophy (OUP, 1990)
31. Patten, Alan, Hegel’s idea of Freedom (OUP 1999)
32. Plant Raymond, Modern Political Thought (Blackwell, 1991)
34. Rawls, John, Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy (Harvard, 2007)
43. Talmon, J. L., The Origins of Totalitarian Democracy: Political Theory and Practice during the French Revolution and Beyond (Harmondsworth, 1982)
44. Tormey, Simon, Making Sense of Tyranny: Interpretations of Totalitarianism (Manchester University Press, 1995)
47. Williams, Howard, Kant’s Political Philosophy (Blackwell, 1983)
48. Wolff, Jonathan, an Introduction to Political Philosophy (OUP 1996)
Liberal economic ideas were also put forward as a. When the early post-1945 world economic order was ushered in, three alternative ideologies of political economy had become dominant in different regions of the globe. In the "West", the prevalent ideology that emerged out of the experience of the 1930s became "embedded liberalism". Also important has been the rise of more general nationalist opposition to global neoliberalism and its effects on political, economic and cultural sovereignty, opposition that has stemmed from both the left and the right of the political spectrum (e.g. Buchanan, 1998: Goff, 2000; Rupert, 2000). Some new critics of economic liberalism: greens and feminists. Liberalism and Its Critics. 42 Followers. Papers. This book started as an idea discussed over dinner after a lecture by M Sornarajah (Sorna) at an event on 31 October 2013 at the LSE Laboratory for Advanced Research on the Global Economy entitled, "Greed, Humanity and the Neoliberal Retreat in International Law". In this book you will find a rich disciplinary mix of international law, economics, history, moral philosophy, political economy, and critical development studies.