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| **Course code(s):** BBN-FIL18-342,BBN-FIL18-352,BBN-FIL18-332,BMA-FILD-332,BMA-FILD-352,BMA-FILD-342 |
| **Title of the course**: Theories of Freedom |
| **Instructor**: Perica Jovchevski |
| **Time:** Tuesdays, 3.15-4.45pm |
| **Course description:**  Under what conditions is an action of a person, free? Is it when there is an absence of obstacles to one’s actions? Or, when one is capable to act on what one wants? Or, perhaps when one is non-dominated, in the sense that one’s actions cannot be subject to arbitrary interference by others? Are some liberties more valuable or fundamental than others? Is the freedom to buy whatever one wants as valuable as the freedom of religion? Can loss of liberty be compensated by more money or opportunities? These are some of the questions that will be addressed within this introductory course on freedom through the conceptions of liberty developed within key works of modern and contemporary political philosophy. |
| **Aim of the course:**  At the end of the course the student shall:   * acquire knowledge about different conceptions of freedom within modern and contemporary political philosophy; * develop ability to use different methods for normative evaluation of various conceptions of freedom; * be able to conduct independent analysis of freedom and related phenomena such as coercion, domination, autonomy etc.; * develop ability to construct moral arguments on various fundamental topics in the study of liberty. |
| **Content of the course:**  Week 1 (Sep 12): Course introduction: negative and positive liberty  Week 2 (Sep 19): Freedom and the lack of constrains  Week 3 (Sep 26): Freedom and rights  Week 4 (Oct 03): Freedom, private property and capitalism  Week 5 (Oct 10): What is wrong with negative freedom?  Week 6 (Oct 17): Liberty and liberalism  Week 7 (Oct 24): Autonomy  Week 8 (Oct 31): Fall Holiday  Week 9 (Nov 07): Marxist views on freedom  Week 10 (Nov 14): Feminist theories of freedom  Week 11 (Nov 21): Communal freedom  Week 12 (Nov 28): A third type of freedom?  Week 13 (Dec 05): The ideal of republican freedom  Week 14 (Dec 12): Recap and final discussion |
| **Course requirements:**   * Attendance: students need to attend minimum 11 classes (85%) in order to get a grade. * Presentation of mandatory readings (approximately 20 min.) * Two position papers, one before, one after the Fall Holiday (max. 1000 words each) * Final paper (2500-3000 words) |
| **Grade composition**   * Participation in class discussions - 20% * Presentation of mandatory readings - 20% * Two position papers -20% * Final paper - 40% |
| **Readings:**   * **Week 1 (Sep 12): Course introduction: negative and positive liberty** * **Week 2 (Sep 19): Freedom and the lack of constrains**   Mandatory reading   * T. Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part II, Ch.18-26.   Supplementary reading   * D. J. Kapust and B. P. Turner, “Democratical Gentlemen and the Lust for Mastery: Status, Ambition, and the Language of Liberty in Hobbes’s Political Thought,” *Political Theory*, 41, 4 (2013): 648–675. * **Week 3 (Sep 26): Freedom and rights**   Mandatory reading   * J. Locke, *Second Treatise of Government*, Ch. I-V, VII.   Supplementary reading   * A.J. Simmons, “Inalienable Rights and Locke’s *Treatises,*” *Philosophy and Public Affairs*   12 (1983): 175-204.   * **Week 4 (Oct 03): The open market and economic freedom**   Mandatory reading   * M. Friedman, Capitalism and freedom (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 2002), Ch.1 and 2.   Supplementary reading   * F.A. Hayek, “Freedom and Coercion,” in *The Liberty Reader*, edited by D. Miller (Edinburgh: Paradigm Publishers, 2006), 80–99. * **Week 5 (Oct 10): What is wrong with negative freedom?**   Mandatory reading   * C. Taylor, “What’s Wrong with Negative Liberty,” in *The Liberty Reader*, edited by D. Miller (Edinburgh: Paradigm Publishers, 2006), 141–162.   Supplementary reading   * G. MacCallum, “Negative and Positive Freedom,” in *The Liberty Reader*, edited by D. Miller (Edinburgh: Paradigm Publishers, 2006), 100–122. * **Week 6 (Oct 17): Freedom and liberalism**   Mandatory reading   * J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*,   Supplementary reading   * R. Dworkin, *Justice for Hedgehogs,* Ch.17: Liberty. * **Week 7 (Oct 24): Autonomy**   Mandatory reading   * G. Dworkin, *The Theory and Practice of Autonomy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), Ch 1and 2.   Supplementary reading   * J. Raz, *The Morality of Freedom* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), Ch.14. * **Week 8 (Oct 31): Fall holiday (no class)** * **Week 9 (Nov 07):** **Marxist views on freedom**   Mandatory reading   * G. A. Cohen, “Capitalism, Freedom, and the Proletariat”, in *The Idea of Freedom: Essays in Honour of Isaiah Berlin*, edited by A. Ryan (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979), 9-27.   Supplementary reading   * Karl Marx, “Alienated Labor” and “Private Property and Communism” from the *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*. * **Week 10 (Nov 14): Feminist theories of freedom**   Mandatory reading   * N. J. Hirschman, “Toward a Feminist Theory of Freedom,” in *The Liberty Reader*, edited by D. Miller (Edinburgh: Paradigm Publishers, 2006), 200–222.   Supplementary reading   * C. Pateman, *The Sexual Contract* (Stanford: Stanford Univerity Press, 1988), Ch1. * **Week 11 (Nov 21): Communal freedom**   Mandatory reading   * J-J. Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin and Foundations of Inequality among Men* (skip intro).   Supplementary reading   * J-J. Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book I, II and IV. * **Week 12 (Nov 28): A third type of freedom?**   Mandatory reading   * Q. Skinner, “A Third Concept of Liberty,” in *The Liberty Reader*, edited by David Miller (Edinburgh: Paradigm Publishers, 2006), 243–254.   Supplementary reading   * C. List and L. Valentini, “Freedom as Independence,” *Ethics* 126, 4 (2016):1043–1074. * **Week 13 (Dec 05): The ideal of republican freedom**   Mandatory reading   * P. Pettit, “The Republican Ideal of Freedom,” in *The Liberty Reader*, edited by David Miller (Edinburgh: Paradigm Publishers, 2006), 223–242.   Supplementary reading   * C. List, “Republican Freedom and the Rule of Law,” *Politics, Philosophy and Economic* 5, 2 (2006):201–220. * **Week 14 (Dec 12): Recap and final discussion** |
| **Important course and classroom rules:**   * *Late policy:* position papers are due October, 10th and November 14th, midnight. Final papers are due December 12th, before the beginning of our last class. If papers are up to one week late, they will be penalized a whole grade. Thereafter, one more grade for each additional week they are late. * *Policy on academic honesty*: please don’t ask Chat GPT to write your papers. All final papers will be checked for plagiarism. Plagiarism on the final paper will result in automatic failure irrespective of the rest of your performance during the course. Also, be careful how you present the works of others: use appropriate citations and full bibliographic references to the literature you are using! * *Respectful classroom policy*: many of the topics we will discuss during the course can be subject to disagreement and heated debates. You will be expected to abide to a norm of mutual respect for the opinions of others. * *Students with disabilities:* in case you have a disability, which might impact your performance on the course, please request accommodation letter from the relevant university bodies (an email would suffice) and contact me to discuss the provisions of the accommodation. |