

Philosophy 207
Political Philosophy
Spring 2024

MW 125-240
Friedl 216

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Reading schedule

January 10 Introduction.

Liberty

Jan 17 Berlin, "Two concepts of liberty," *Four essays on liberty* (Oxford, 1969).
Jan 22 MacCallum, "Negative and positive freedom," *Philosophical Review* 76 (1967).
Jan 24 No new reading.
Jan 29 & 31 Skinner, *Liberty before liberalism* (Cambridge, 1998).
Feb 5 & 7 Pettit, *Republicanism* (Clarendon, 1997), chh. 1 and 2.

Equality

Feb 12 Williams, "The idea of equality," *Problems of the Self* (Cambridge, 1973), ch. 14.
Feb 14 Rawls, *A Theory of Justice* (Harvard, 1971), §§11-14 and 17.
Feb 19 No new reading.
First essay due.
Feb 21 Sen, "Equality of what?," in S. Darwall (ed.) *Equal Freedom* (Michigan, 1998).
Feb 26 Parfit, "Equality or Priority?" in J. Harris (ed.) *Bioethics* (Oxford, 2001): 347-386.
Feb 28 No new reading.

Rights

March 4 Hart, "Are there any natural rights?" *Philosophical Review* 64 (1955).
March 6 MacCormick, "Rights in legislation," in P.M.S. Hacker and J. Raz (eds.) *Law, Morality, and Society* (Clarendon, 1977).

March 11 Spring break.

March 18 No new reading.
March 20 Raz, *Morality of freedom* (Oxford, 1986), ch. 7.
Second essay due.
March 25 Kagan, *Normative Ethics* (Westview, 1997): 70-78 and 170-77.
March 27 No new reading.

Democracy

- April 1 & 3 Dworkin, *Freedom's Law* (Harvard, 1996), Introduction.
April 8 & 10 Waldron, "The core of the case against judicial review," *Yale Law Journal* 115 (2006): 1346-1406.
April 15 Przeworski, "Minimalist conception of democracy: a defense," in I. Shapiro and C. Hacker-Cordón (eds.) *Democracy's value* (Cambridge, 1999): 23-55.
April 17 Third essay due. No new reading.
April 22 Accordion day.
April 24 LDOC. No class.

End of lectures.

Texts

Apart from the Skinner, all the readings will be made available in Canvas as either links or PDFs. Please purchase a copy of Skinner's book.

Assignments

There will be three required essays (2000 words each) in this course. Each essay will be worth 30 percent of the final grade. Participation in class is worth the remaining 10 percent. There will be no examinations.

Everyone will have the option to write a fourth essay. If your fourth grade is higher than one of your previous three, you may substitute it for your lowest previous grade.

Office hours

By appointment. Please e-mail me or see me after class to arrange a meeting.

11 December, 2023