

Philosophy 267 Political Philosophy
Spring 2013 Political Liberalism
Dick Arneson

The seminar meets on Tuesdays 1-4.
Schedule of topics and readings

Week 1. April 2

Introduction to "Political Liberalism" problem

Reading: John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, Lectures 1 and 2.

Background reading: Samuel Freeman, *Rawls*, chapters 8 & 9. Also: Thomas Nagel, "Rawls and Liberalism," in *Cambridge Companion to Rawls*. Also Charles Larmore, *Patterns of Moral Complexity*, chapter 3.

Further background: Richard Arneson, "Political Liberalism, Political Liberty, and Religious Establishment."

Week 2. April 9

Rawls on overlapping consensus and public reason. John Rawls, *Political Liberalism*, Lectures 4 and 6. Also Jonathan Quong, *Liberalism without Perfection*, Chapter 8.

Background reading: Charles Larmore, "Public Reason," in *Cambridge Companion to Rawls*. Also Joseph Raz, "Facing Diversity: The Case of Epistemic Abstinence," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1990; David Estlund, "The Insularity of the Reasonable: Why Political Liberalism Must admit the Truth," *Ethics* 1998; David Estlund, *Democratic Authority: A Philosophical Framework*, chapter 3, David Estlund, "The Truth in Political Liberalism"; Leif Wenar, "Political Liberalism: An Internal critique," *Ethics* 1995; Brian Barry, "John Rawls and the Search for Stability," *Ethics* 1995; Brian Barry, *Justice as Impartiality*, 1995, the section on moderate skepticism on the good; David McCabe, "Knowing about the Good: A Problem with Antiperfectionism," *Ethics* 2000.

Further background reading: Rawls clarifies the idea of public reason in his "The Idea of Public Reason," *The University of Chicago Law Review* 64 (Summer 1997), 765-807.

Week 3. April 16

Against perfectionism. Reading: Jonathan Quong, *Liberalism without Perfection*, chapters 1 and 2.

Background reading: Steven Wall, *Liberalism, Perfectionism, and Restraint*. Also Joseph Raz, *The Morality of Freedom*.

Week 4 April 23

Reading: Jonathan Quong, *Liberalism without Perfection*, chapters 3 and 4.

Background reading: Peter de Marneffe, "The Slipperiness of Neutrality," *Social Theory and Practice* 2006; Robert Taylor, "The Poverty of Political Liberalism" (from his book *Reconstructing Rawls*).

Week 5 April 30

Reading: Jonathan Quong, *Liberalism without Perfection*, chapters 5 and 6.

Background reading: Richard Arneson, "Political Liberalism and Perfectionist Liberalism." Background reading: Peter de Marneffe, "Liberalism and Perfectionism," *American Journal of Jurisprudence* 1998).

Week 6 May 7

Reading: Martha Nussbaum, "Perfectionist Liberalism and Political Liberalism," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 2011; also Steven Wall, "Perfectionism, Reasonableness, and Respect." Also Jonathan Quong, *Liberalism without Perfection*, chapter 7.

Week 7 May 14

Gaus, The fundamental problem. Reading: Gerald Gaus, *The Order of Public Reason* chapters 1 and 13.

Background Reading: Andrew Lister, "The Classical Tilt of Justificatory Liberalism."

Week 8 May 21

Gaus, The socially eligible set. Reading: Gerald Gaus, *The Order of Public Reason*, chapters 14-16.

Background reading: Steven Wall, "Public Reason and Moral Authoritarianism" *Philosophical Quarterly* 2013; also Wall, "On Justificatory Liberalism."

Week 9 May 29

Gaus, coordination . Reading: Gerald Gaus, *The Order of Public Reason*, chapters 17-19.

Week 10. June 4

Gaus, the political order, plus criticisms of Gaus. Reading: Gaus, *The Order of Public Reason*, chapters 22 and 23. David Enoch, "The Disorder of Public Reason." Also Jonathan Quong, "What Is the Point of Public Reason?"

Background reading: Richard Arneson,

Alternate topic: Ronald Dworkin's antiperfectionism. Reading: Ronald Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue*, chapter 6, "Equality and the Good Life."