

**Political Theory Core**  
Spring 2005

Professor Dimitri Landa  
Seminar Meeting: Thursday 2-4pm  
Room 747, 726 Broadway  
Office: Room 749, 726 Broadway  
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:00  
e-mail: dimitri.landa@nyu.edu

**Seminar Requirements:**

2 short (4-5 page) thought papers on required and recommended readings for a chosen week  
– due at the beginning of next week’s meeting  
1 medium-size (15-20 page) research paper  
active participation in seminar discussions

**Readings:**

The following books and editions are required for this seminar:

Aristotle, *Politics*. Ed. Stephen Everson, second edition. Cambridge University Press, 1996.  
Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*. Ed. with Introduction by Edwin Curley. Hackett Publishing Company, 1994.  
John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*. Ed. Peter Laslett. Cambridge University Press, 1988.  
John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*. Ed. James Tully. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1990.  
Bernard Manin, *The Principles of Representative Government*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.  
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*. Ed. Quentin Skinner and Russell Price. Cambridge University Press, 1988.  
John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty and Other Writings*. Ed. Stefan Collini. Cambridge University Press, 1990.  
John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement*. Harvard University Press, 2001.  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *On the Social Contract*. Trans. Donald A. Cress, revised edition. Hackett Publishing Company, 1988.  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*. Trans. Donald A. Cress. Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.

I will also make available for copying various articles and book chapters required for the course (see below).

**Schedule of Sessions:**

Session 1: **Political Theory: the why and the how**

Isaiah Berlin, “Does Political Theory Still Exist?” In Berlin, *Concepts and Categories: Philosophical Essays*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999.  
Alasdair MacIntyre, “The Indispensability of Political Theory.” In D. Miller and L. Siendentop, *The Nature of Political Theory*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983, 17-33.  
John Rawls, “Four Roles of Political Philosophy.” In *Justice as Fairness: a Restatement*, 1-5.

Recommended:

Quentin Skinner, "Motives, Intentions, and the Interpretation of Texts" and "Some Problems in the Analysis of Political Thought and Action." In James Tully, ed., *Meaning and Context: Quentin Skinner and His Critics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989.

David Miller, "Varieties of Political Theory." *Political Studies*, 1992.

### Session 2: **Public Morality and the State I**

Aristotle, *Politics* Book 1, Chs. 1-7; Book VII, Chs. 1-3, 13-15; Book 3, Chs. 1-5, 6-18; Book 4, Chs. 1-9.

Recommended:

Richard Kraut, *Aristotle: Political Philosophy*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Fred D. Miller, *Nature, Justice, and Rights in Aristotle's Politics*. Oxford University Press, 1997.

### Session 3: **Public Morality and the State II**

Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*.

Michael Walzer, "Political Action: the Problem of Dirty Hands." *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 1973, 160-80.

Bernard Mandeville, "Fable of the Bees." In *Bernard Mandeville, Fable of the Bees: or Private Vices, Publick Benefits*. Ed. F. B. Kaye. Indianapolis: Liberty Fund, 1995.

Recommended:

Isaiah Berlin, "The Originality of Machiavelli." In *Against the Current: Essays in the History of Ideas*. Penguin Books, 1982, pp. 25-79.

Adam Ferguson, *An Essay on the History of Civil Society*, Part V, Sections III-V.

J. G. A. Pocock, *The Machiavellian Moment: Florentine Political Thought and the Atlantic Republican Tradition*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975.

Maurizio Viroli, *From Politics to Reason of State: The Acquisition and Transformation of the Language of Politics, 1250-1600*. Cambridge University Press, 1992.

Gisela Bock, Quentin Skinner, and Maurizio Viroli, eds., *Machiavelli and Republicanism*, Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Mary Dietz, "Trapping the Prince: Machiavelli and the Politics of Deception" *American Political Science Review* Vol. 80, No. 3. (Sep., 1986), pp. 777-799.

### Session 4: **Liberty and the Social Contract I**

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part 2, Chs. 13-21, 26, 29, 30.

Russell Hardin, "Hobbesian Political Theory." *Political Theory* Vol. 19, No. 2. (May, 1991), 156-180.

Recommended:

Jean Hampton, *Hobbes and the Social Contract Theory*. Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Quentin Skinner, *Reason and Rhetoric in the Philosophy of Hobbes*. Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Quentin Skinner, *Hobbes and Civil Science*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

### Session 5: **Liberty and the Social Contract II**

John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government*.

Jean Hampton, "Contract and Consent." In R. E. Goodin and P. Pettit, eds., *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1993, 379-94.

Recommended:

John Dunn, *The Political Thought of John Locke*. Cambridge University Press, 1969.

A. John Simmons, *The Lockean Theory of Rights*. Princeton University Press, 1994.

David Wootton, "Introduction." In *Political Writings of John Locke*. Penguin Books, 1993, pp. 7-122.

Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*. Basic Books, 1974.

### Session 6: **Liberty and Toleration**

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*.

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*, Chs. 2-4

Dimitri Landa, "Toleration and Self-Skepticism." In I. Creppel, R. Hardin, and S. Macedo, eds., *Toleration on Trial*.

Recommended:

John Gray, *Mill on Liberty: A Defense*. Routledge, 1995.

Jonathan Riley, *Mill's Radical Liberalism*. Routledge, 2001.

Ronald Dworkin, "Rights as Trumps." In Jeremy Waldron, ed., *Theories of Rights*. Oxford University Press, 1984, pp. 153-67.

Thomas Scanlon, "Preference and Urgency." *The Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 72, No. 19, Seventy-Second Annual Meeting American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division. (Nov. 6, 1975), pp. 655-669.

Susan Mendus, ed., *Justifying Toleration: Conceptual and Historical Perspectives*. Cambridge University Press, 1988.

Michael Walzer, *On Toleration*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997.

### Session 7: **Rights**

Jeremy Waldron, "Rights." In R. E. Goodin and P. Pettit, eds., *A Companion to Contemporary Political Philosophy*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 1993, 575-85.

Thomas Scanlon, "Preference and Urgency." *Journal of Philosophy* 72, 1975, 655-69.

Keith Dowding and Martin van Hees, "The Construction of Rights." *American Political Science Review* 97, 2003, 281-293.

Recommended:

Ronald Dworkin, *Taking Rights Seriously*. London: Duckworth, 1978.

Jeremy Waldron, ed., *Theories of Rights*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Mary Ann Glendon, *Rights Talk*. New York: Free Press, 1991.

### Session 8: **Equality and Justice I**

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origins of Inequality*.

Karl Marx, "The Alienated Labor" and "Critique of the Gotha Program."

Recommended:

Jon Elster, *An Introduction to Karl Marx*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.  
Judith Sklar, "Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Equality." *Daedalus* (Summer 1978).

Session 9: **Equality and Justice II**

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice: A Re-statement*, Parts 1 and 2.

Recommended:

*John Rawls: The Cambridge Companion*. Ed. Samuel Freeman. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Brian Barry, *Theories of Justice*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

Session 10: **Equality and Justice III**

John Rawls, *A Theory of Justice: A Re-statement*, Parts 3 and 4.

Derek Parfit, "Equality and Priority." *Ratio* X, no. 3 (December), 1997, 202-21.

John Roemer, "Equality of Opportunity." In Kenneth Arrow, Samuel Bowles and Steven Durlauf, eds., *Meritocracy and Economic Inequality*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000, 17-32.

Recommended:

Ronald Dworkin, *Sovereign Virtue: The Theory and Practice of Equality*. Harvard University Press, 2000.

Gerald Cohen, "Incentives, Inequality and Community." In Stephen Darwall, ed. *Equal Freedom: Selected Tanner Lectures on Human Values*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 1995, pp. 331-97.

Session 11: **Democracy I**

James Madison, Federalist #10, 48-51. In David Wootton, ed., *The Essential Federalist and Anti-Federalist Papers*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2003.

Benjamin Constant, "The Liberties of the Ancients and of the Moderns." In Biancamaria Fontana, ed., *Benjamin Constant: Political Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988, 308-28.

Bernard Manin, *The Principles of Representative Government*, Chs. 2,3,4.

Recommended:

Mogens Hansen, *The Athenian Democracy in the Age of Demosthenes: Structure, Principles and Ideology*. University of Oklahoma Press, 1999.

John Dunn, ed., *Democracy: the Unfinished Journey: 508 BC to AD 1993*. Oxford University Press, 1993.

Adam Przeworski, Susan Stokes, and Bernard Manin, eds., *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Session 12: **Democracy II**

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, Book 1, Chs. 6-9; Book 2; Book 3, Chs. 15-18; Book 4, Chs. 1,2.

Bernard Grofman and Scott L. Feld, "Rousseau's General Will: A Condorcetian Perspective." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 82, No. 2. (Jun., 1988), 567-576.

Recommended:

Joshua Cohen, "Reflections on Rousseau: Autonomy and Democracy." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 15 (Summer 1986), 275-88.

David M. Estlund, Jeremy Waldron, Bernard Grofman, and Scott L. Feld, "Democratic Theory and the Public Interest: Condorcet and Rousseau Revisited." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 83, No. 4. (Dec., 1989), 1317-1340.

James Miller, *Rousseau: Dreamer of Democracy*. Hackett Publishing Company, 1996.

Patrick Riley, *Will and Political Legitimacy: A Critical Exposition of Social Contract Theory in Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant and Hegel*. Replica Books, 2000.

Judith Shklar, *Men and Citizens: A Study in Rousseau's Social Theory*. Second Ed. Cambridge University Press, 1985.

### Session 13: **Democracy III**

Bernard Manin, "On Legitimacy and Political Deliberation." *Political Theory* Vol. 15, No. 3 (Aug., 1987), 338-368.

Jurgen Habermas, "Three Normative Models of Democracy." In J. Habermas, *The Inclusion of the Other*. Cambridge: MIT Press 1999.

Dimitri Landa, "Political Legitimacy and the Moral Economy of Deliberative Participation." NYU Mimeo.

Recommended:

Joshua Cohen, "Deliberation and Democratic Legitimacy." In James Bohman and William Rehg, eds., *Deliberative Democracy*. MIT Press, 1997.

Jack Knight and James Johnson, "Aggregation and Deliberation: On the Possibility of Democratic Legitimacy." *Political Theory*, Vol. 22, No. 2. (May, 1994), 277-296.

Cass R. Sunstein, "Incompletely Theorized Agreements." In Sunstein, *Legal Reasoning and Political Conflict*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996, 35-61.

### Session 14: **Democracy IV**

Kenneth Arrow, "Values and Collective Decision Making." In P. Laslett and W. G. Runciman, eds., *Philosophy, Politics and Society*, Third Series. Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1967, 215-32.

Joseph Schumpeter, "The Classical Doctrine of Democracy" and "Another Theory of Democracy" (Chs. 21 and 22 of Schumpeter's *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*).

Recommended:

Adam Przeworski, "Minimalist Conception of Democracy: A Defense." In Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordon, eds., *Democracy's Value*. Cambridge University Press, 1999, 23-55.

Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market*. Cambridge University Press, 1991.

William H. Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*. Waveland Press, 1988.

Jules Coleman and John Ferejohn, "Democracy and Social Choice." *Ethics*, Vol. 97, No. 1, 1986, 6-25.