Syllabus

The Concept of Patriotism in Political Thought - 56755

Last update 08-10-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: political science

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yiftah Elazar

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Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays 16:00-17:00 Room 4316 (Social Sciences)

Teaching Staff:
   Dr. Yiftah Elazar
Course/Module description:
This seminar examines the following issues: what is patriotism? Is it a moral obligation or a virtue, as some would have it, or a moral mistake, as others have argued? If patriotism is not a mistake, when and under which circumstances would patriotism be appropriate or desirable?
In the opening section of this seminar, we read several influential writings on patriotism from the late 20th century and identify several questions and problems that will come up in the course of the seminar.
In the first semester, we return to the age of enlightenment, when patriotism became a hotly debated topic, and examine philosophical issues and ideological problems related to this concept.
In the second semester, we draw on recent scholarly literature to examine several questions and dilemmas related to patriotism and different ways of thinking of it. The topics discussed will be inspired by the interests of students and the topics of the research papers they write. Possible issues for discussion: what is "country," and should it be identified with a geographic region, ethnic group, political community, or constitution? What is patriotic "love" - a sense of belonging to a place, loyalty to the state, willingness to sacrifice, civic commitment? Is patriotism consistent with universal values? Can patriots be citizens of the world? Is social and political criticism patriotic or unpatriotic? How can or should members of minority groups be patriots?

Course/Module aims:
To critically examine the concept of patriotism using a combination of historical and analytical methods
To study key texts in the history of political thought and in contemporary political theory

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To critically read texts in the history of political thought and in contemporary political theory
To examine concepts and arguments using analytical tools
To examine concepts and arguments in historical and ideological contexts
To define research questions and construct an argument in political theory

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Required reading and preparation at home, discussion in class, student presentations in class
Course/Module Content:
  Illiberal loyalty as a virtue
The revival of republican patriotism
Is patriotism a mistake?
The classical republic and modern monarchy
Sparta in Geneva
The patriot as an impartial spectator
Rivalry and struggle as patriotic principles
The refuge of scoundrels
The patriot as social reformer and citizen of the world
Revolutionism as perversion
The rights of women and patriotism
The cosmopolitan ideal
The patriotism of the German nation
Patriotism in the age of democracy
Additional topics, to be chosen in consultation with students, such as:
  Constitutional patriotism
  Patriotism and nationalism
  Cosmopolitanism
  Patriotic criticism?
  Patriotism and minority groups

Required Reading:
First Semester:
Alasdair Maclntyre, "Is Patriotism a Virtue?" 1984
Mary Dietz, "Patriotism," 1989
George Kateb, "Is Patriotism a Mistake?" 2000
Montesquieu, על רוח החוקים, 1748
Rousseau, A Discourse on Political Economy, 1755
Adam Smith, The Theory of Moral Sentiments, 1759
Adam Ferguson, An Essay on the History of Civil Society, 1767
Samuel Johnson, The Patriot, 1774
Richard Price, A Discourse on the Love of Our Country, 1789
Edmund Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France, 1790
Mary Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, 1792
עמנואל קאנט, לשלום הנצחי: שרטוט פילוסופי, 1795
Johann Gottlieb Fichte, Addresses to the German Nation, 1808
Alexis de Tocqueville, Democracy in America, 1835-40

Second semester:
Primarily contemporary scholarship.
**Additional Reading Material:**

- Goodin, Robert E. 1988. “What is So Special about Our Fellow Countrymen?,” Ethics, Vol. 98, No. 4
- Kleinig, John, Simon Keller, and Igor Primoratz. 2015. The Ethics of Patriotism: A Debate
- Müller, Jan-Werner. Constitutional Patriotism (2007)
- Primoratz, Igor and Aleksandar Pavković. 2013. Patriotism: Philosophical and Political Perspectives
- Vincent, Andrew. 2007. Nationalism and Particularity

For additional reading, see detailed syllabus.

**Course/Module evaluation:**

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 40 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 40 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

**Additional information:**
Details in online course system and in syllabus are subject to change. A detailed syllabus for the second semester will be put together in consultation with the students.

**Requirements:**
1. Attendance.
2. Reading of assigned texts on a weekly basis.
3. Preparation of questions and comments for class.
4. Participation in class demonstration reading of the texts and reflection on them.
5. Short presentation of texts in class as agreed with instructor.
6. Leading a class meeting and circulating a summary of the course plan.
7. For those writing a research paper: submission of research proposal towards the end of the first semester. At the end of the second semester, submission of research paper, 20-30 pages, 12-point font, double-spaced. Deadline: 31 July 2016.
8. Take-home exam for those not writing a research paper.

Grading:

Course grade (4 credit points):
20% participation in class, including preparation of questions and comments for discussions in class and short presentation of texts.
40% Leading a class, including circulation of summary
40% Take-home exam or research paper. For those writing a research paper, 10% are for the submission of a research proposal, and 30% are for the paper itself.

Research paper grade (4 credit points):
100% research paper