

**ADM 4150**  
**MODERNITY AND THE IDEA OF FREEDOM**  
Monday 09:40 to 12:30 pm. FZ17

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 2 to 4 pm.

### **Course Description**

This course is a senior seminar in political theory. The purpose of this course is to explore one of the key questions of the modern age: the question of freedom.

The centrality of the notion of freedom and its definitive role in the political arena is undisputable. Nonetheless freedom appears as a specifically modern question. From the 17<sup>th</sup> century onward thinkers, who formed the grand narrative of Western European political thought, have dealt with the question of how to define political freedom: Is it the freedom of the individual (Hobbes) or the freedom in harmony with the general will (Rousseau)? Does the concept of freedom change from one culture to another (Tocqueville) or should it be defined by the universal assumptions of political liberalism (Mill)? Can human mind conceive freedom a priori (Kant) or does freedom reveal itself in human history (Hegel)? Is political freedom tantamount to human emancipation (Marx) or should one consider different paths to pursue political freedom (Hayek)? The exploration of such dynamic and differing approaches to the question of freedom through the reading of political theory texts, is one of the primary aims of this course.

In surveying the changing conceptions of freedom, this course also considers two related yet oppositional themes that arise with modernity. The first theme concerns the early modern theories that perceive political freedom in mere binary oppositions: Negative freedom, which sees individual freedom as freedom from authority (Hobbes, Mill), versus positive freedom, which perceives freedom as the ability of individuals to participate in their government and community (Rousseau, Tocqueville). The second theme introduces a certain deepening in the conceptions of freedom –a shift from twofold understanding of human freedom, to a project of enlightenment and emancipation that seeks to grasp the moral implications of free rational will (Kant), and the meaning of the historical transformations with a view toward the achievement of a human emancipation within –and even beyond– the modern state (Hegel, Marx, Hayek).

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

1- Attendance and participation in class discussion: 10%

The class format is centered on lectures and on in-class discussions. Regular attendance and participation are required. Students must have completed the reading(s) listed for each session before the class.

2-Two mid-term exams:	25% each
1 <sup>st</sup> Mid-term Exam	November 4, 2010
2 <sup>nd</sup> Mid-Term Exam	December 9, 2010

Both mid-term exams will be in take-home exam format. Students will be given three days to return their exams.

3-Final Exam: 40%

### Required Readings:

Berlin, I.	<i>Liberty</i> (Oxford)
Hobbes, T	<i>Leviathan</i> (Penguin Books)
Rousseau, J. J.	<i>Discourse on the Origin of Inequality</i> (Hackett)
Mill, J. S.	<i>On Liberty</i> (Hackett)
Tocqueville, A.	<i>Democracy in America</i> (Perennial Classics)
Kant, I.	<i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (Cambridge)
Hegel, G. W. F.	<i>Reason in History</i> (Macmillan/Library of Liberal Arts) <i>Elements of the Philosophy of Right</i> (Cambridge)
Marx, K.	<i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> (Norton)
Hayek, F.	<i>Constitution of Liberty</i> (Chicago)

### Schedule of Classes

#### September 27: Introduction

#### October 4: What is Freedom?

Berlin, I. "Two Concepts of Liberty" pp: 166-217.

#### October 11: Freedom by Contract I: Individual Freedom

Hobbes, T. *Leviathan* Chap.: 13-21.

#### October 18: Freedom by Contract II: Social Freedom

Rousseau, J. J. *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* pp: 25-81.

#### October 25: Liberty instead of Political Freedom

Mill, J. S. *On Liberty*

#### November 1: Regime instead of Political Freedom

Tocqueville, A. *Democracy in America*, Vol 1 Part 2 pp: 213-276.  
Vol 2 Part 4 pp: 667-705.

#### November 8: Morality of Freedom? I

Kant, I. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

#### November 15: NO CLASS- Religious Holiday

#### November 22: Morality of Freedom? II

Kant, I. *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* cont'd.

**November 29: Freedom in History I**

Hegel, G. W. F. *Reason in History* Part 3.

**December 6: Freedom in History II**

Hegel, G. W. F. *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* Part 3, pp: 189-198.

Part 3, Section 3 pp: 275-290.

**December 13: Emancipation**

Marx, K. *The Marx-Engels Reader*

“On the Jewish Question” pp: 26-53.

**December 20: Emancipation II**

Marx, K. *The Marx-Engels Reader*

“Economic and Philosophic Manuscript of 1844” pp: 66-126.

**December 27: Back to Liberty?**

Hayek, F. *Constitution of Liberty* Chap.: 1, 3-4.

**January 3: Liberty and the Market**

Hayek, F. *Constitution of Liberty* Chap.: 6-8.