

Libertarianism (SF 1117A)

Tues and Thurs 2:30-3:45pm, Sawyer 908

FINAL EXAM Wednesday Dec 14th 1:00pm-2:50pm

Dr. Benjamin Powell

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-2:30pm and by appointment (Weds is a good day for an appointment)

This course will provide an overview of libertarian philosophy. The libertarian philosophy, at its most basic level, is simply the idea that no person may aggress against the person or property of anyone else. While this basic idea seems fairly straight forward and will appeal to many people's morality most people today do not consistently hold libertarian views. This course will examine how that philosophy applies to a wide range of issues and what the consequences of adopting policies consistent with that philosophy might be.

This course is very interdisciplinary. It will rely on philosophy and economics the most but also will include topics that might otherwise fall under history, political science, and sociology. There are two central objections to most social theories. The first is the realm of philosophy: that the theory is unjust. The second is in the realm of economics: if the theory were practiced it would lead to bad consequences. Economics is a science of means and ends so it is very useful in addressing consequentialist concerns.

Books:

Murray Rothbard	For a New Liberty: The Libertarian Manifesto
Jeffrey Miron	Libertarianism: From A to Z
Jacob Huebert	Libertarianism Today
David Boaz	The Libertarian Reader: Classic and Contemporary Writings

Grading:

Participation and pop quizzes	10%
2 Papers analyzing the news	30% (15% each)
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam	30%

News Assignment:

Judge Andrew Napolitano's "Freedom Watch" on Fox Business is without a doubt the most libertarian news show on TV today. Watch a segment of his show. Pick an issue or two that he covers in the show and analyze how his take differs from that of other news sources. How does his view (and/or his guest) fit with your understanding of libertarianism? Assignment should be about 3 pages double spaced. Show airs 8pm-9pm on weekdays and reruns at 11pm each day as well.

Guest Lectures:

There will be two visitors lecturing on topics related to this course this semester. You are expected to attend 1 of the 2 and write a one page summary of the talk. The talks will be Tuesday Oct 11th and Monday November 7th. Both at 4pm. Place TBA.

Tentative Schedule (note, this is a four credit class. You are expected to read, study, and do class related work for 9 hours per week outside of class).

Week of	Topic	Readings
September 8 th	Intro	
September 13 th -15 th	What is Libertarianism	Miron pp.1-6, 38-43 Huebert pp. 1-44 Rothbard pp. 23-44
	Ideals of the American Revolution	Boaz pp. 7-19, 123-135, 140-141, 211-214.
September 20 th -22 nd	Walking Tour Freedom Trail Rain or Shine! Extended Class Time. <u>Class starts at 1:30 at Granary Burial Ground</u>	Rothbard 1-19
	Slavery and Involuntary Servitude	Boaz 77-92 Rothbard 79-93 Supplement 1
September 27 th -29 th	Equality	Boaz 104-108 Rothbard 142-171 Boaz 181-197.
	Social Security/Retirement	Miron 108-110, 159-162, 132,159-162
October 4 th -6 th	The Market Order	Boaz 253-258, 260-274, 303-312.
	Sex, Marriage, Abortion	Miron 7-10, 110-112, 126-127, 138-139, 153-155, 148-152. Rothbard 103-108.

October 11 th -13 th	Government and Business	Rothbard 194-201. Boaz 161-168.
	Current Economic Crisis	Huebert 45-67. Miron 25-28, 34-35, 83-85, 94-96, 173-176.

FIRST NEWS ANALYSIS DUE 10/13

October 18 th -20 th	Guns	Huebert 135-151 Miron 97-99 Rothbard 114-118
	Immigration	Miron 105-107. Supplement 2.
October 25 th -27 th	War	Rothbard 263-297. Miron 187-190. Huebert 175-203. Boaz 319-322, 327-331
	The Environment	Rothbard 242-263 Miron 142-145, 68-74.
November 1 st -3 rd	Streets	Rothbard 201-215 Supplement 3.
	Constitution	Miron 80-83 Boaz 42-48, 154-161, 149-154.
November 8 th -10 th	Secession	Supplement 4 Supplement 5
	Democracy	Supplement 6

SECOND NEWS ANALYSIS DUE 11/10

November 15 th -17 th	Drugs	Huebert 67-93 Miron 62-67 Rothbard 111-112
	Education	Rothbard, 119-142 Huebert 111-135 Miron 139-141, 182-185
November 22 nd	TBA	
Nov. 29 th Dec 1 st	Police	Rothbard 215-222
	Courts	Rothbard 222-237, Miron 33-34, 51-53
December 6 th -8 th	What role government?	Rothbard 45-73, 237-241 Miron 120-122 Boaz 28-30. Supplement 7 Supplement 8

TERM PAPER DUE 12/8

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Supplemental Readings:

1. Bryan Caplan “How the Truth of Libertarianism Follows from the Wrongness of Slavery.”
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3894/is_200010/ai_n8914011/?tag=mantle_skin;content
2. Benjamin Powell. “An Economic Case for Immigration.”
<http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2010/Powellimmigration.html>
3. Benjamin Powell, “Sell the Streets.”
<http://www.econlib.org/library/Columns/y2009/Powellstreets.html>
4. Jeffery Rodgers Hummel “America’s Turning Point.”
<http://www.thefreemanonline.org/featured/america%E2%80%99s-turning-point/>
5. Robert Nozick “A Framework for Utopia” 297-320.
6. H.L. Mencken “The Democratic State.”
7. Isaac Morehouse and Chistopher Nelson “How Radical is Too Radical? Anarchism as a Practical Guide to Advancing Liberty.”
<http://www2.libertarian.co.uk/sites/default/lanotepdf/tactn032.pdf>
8. Donald Boudreaux “The A Word.”
<http://www.thefreemanonline.org/columns/the-a-word/>

