

## Libertarianism Winter 2012

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Is capitalism justified on the grounds of natural liberty? Is the legitimate exercise of political power limited by our pre-political rights, especially our property rights? Indeed, is the *sole* function of a just government to safeguard such rights? We will work towards answers to these questions by evaluating the tradition in political philosophy that has tended to answer them in the affirmative—Libertarianism. We will begin with John Locke, the father of this tradition, devoting several weeks to a close reading of his *Second Treatise of Government*. We will then consider the works of contemporary Libertarians, starting with Robert Nozick’s classic defense of Right Libertarianism, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*. We will then consider Michael Otsuka’s defense of a Left Libertarianism that attempts to reconcile libertarianism and egalitarianism. At various points, we will consider contemporary critics of the entire tradition, such as G.A. Cohen, and consider the merits of alternative approaches within the social contract tradition.

**COURSE WEBSITE:** This course has a chalk. You should get in the habit of checking the website at least once a week. To access the chalk go to [www.uchicago.edu](http://www.uchicago.edu) and click on “student”. Chalk should appear as a button on the left hand side. Clicking on that should take you to a list of chalks for the courses in which you are enrolled. Readings, aside from John Rawls can be found on the chalk for this course under the “assignments” button, grouped in folders by week. You will also be able to find this syllabus, and contact information for your CA and me. Course material (paper assignments, handouts, etc.) will regularly be made available on the site.

<b>GRADING:</b>	<b>PAPER ONE:</b>	<b>45%</b>
	<b>PAPER TWO:</b>	<b>45%</b>
	<b>PARTICIPATION:</b>	<b>10%</b>

Three papers will be assigned during this course. You must write two of the three papers. Paper topics will be posted on Chalk as the deadlines approach. For due dates for papers, consult the syllabus below. Late papers will be accepted with a penalty. Participation credit accrues to those who regularly attend both the lecture and discussion sections, and who participate actively in discussions there. Credit is also given for evident effort and improvement.

## TEXTS

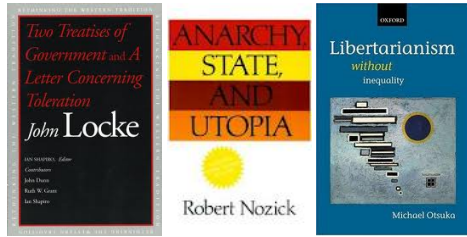
ALL REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED TEXTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE SEMINARY COOP BOOKSTORE. OTHER READINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON CHALK, AS ARE THE READINGS DRAWN FROM THE RECOMMENDED TEXT.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government and A Letter Concerning Toleration*

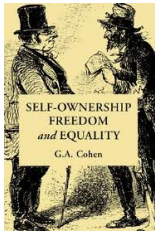
Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State and Utopia*

Michael Otsuka, *Libertarianism without Inequality*



### RECOMMENDED TEXT:

G.A. Cohen, *Self-Ownership, Freedom and Equality*



# SYLLABUS OF READINGS

## **Part I: John Locke**

### WEEK 1: Introductions: Locke on the Law of Nature

- 1/3 INTRODUCTIONS
- 1/5 LOCKE, CHAPTERS I-IV, ENTIRE, PP. 100-110  
CHAPTER VI, §§54-61, PP. 122-126

### WEEK 2: Locke on Property and Voluntary Associations

- 1/10 LOCKE, CHAPTER V, §§25-44, PP. 111-119
- 1/12 LOCKE, CHAPTER V, §§45-51, PP. 119-121  
CHAPTER VI, §§62-76, PP. 126-133  
CHAPTER VII, ENTIRE, PP. 133-141

### WEEK 3: Locke on Government

- 1/17 LOCKE, CHAPTER VIII-XII, ENTIRE, PP. 141-165
- 1/19 LOCKE, CHAPTER XIII-XIX, ENTIRE, PP. 166-209
- 1/22 PAPER 1 DUE BY 5PM ON CHALK

## **Part II: Right Libertarianism**

### WEEK 4: Methodology and Moral Foundations

- 1/24 NOZICK, CHAPTERS 1-2, ENTIRE, PP. 3-25
- 1/26 NOZICK, CHAPTER 3, ENTIRE, PP. 26-53

### WEEK 5: Self-ownership and Risk

- 1/31 SPECIAL SESSION: EVAN RILEY ON SELF-OWNERSHIP, AVAILABLE ON CHALK
- 2/2 NOZICK, CHAPTER 4, PP. 54-89

### WEEK 6: Justifying the Minimal State

- 2/7 NOZICK, CHAPTER 5, ENTIRE, PP. 88-119
- 2/9 NOZICK, CHAPTER 7, PP. 149-182

WEEK 7: *Libertarian Utopia?*

2/14 NOZICK, CHAPTER 9, ENTIRE, PP. 276-294

2/16 NOZICK, CHAPTER 10, ENTIRE, PP. 297-334

2/19 PAPER 2 DUE AT 5PM ON CHALK

**Brief Anti-Libertarian Interlude:**

WEEK 8: *Against Self-Ownership*

2/21 COHEN, "SELF-OWNERSHIP, WORLD-OWNERSHIP AND EQUALITY PART I" AVAILABLE ON CHALK

2/23 COHEN, "SELF-OWNERSHIP, WORLD-OWNERSHIP AND EQUALITY PART II" AVAILABLE ON CHALK

**PART III: LEFT LIBERTARIANISM**

WEEK 9: *Egalitarianism with Libertarian Foundations?*

2/28 OTSUKA, CHAPTER 1, ENTIRE, PP. 11-40

3/1 WARREN QUINN, "THE RIGHT TO THREATEN AND THE RIGHT TO PUNISH", AVAILABLE ON CHALK  
OTSUKA, CHAPTERS 2-3, ENTIRE, PP. 41-65

WEEK 10: *Government as a Voluntary Association*

3/6 OTSUKA, CHAPTERS 5-6, ENTIRE, PP. 89-131

3/8 READING PERIOD; NO CLASS

3/13 PAPER 3 DUE BY 5PM ON CHALK