

Politics 503A: 2012-13, Fall Term
Instructor: Richard Vernon, SSC 4129, ravernon@uwo.ca

Topic: From Toleration to Multiculturalism.

The object of the course is to examine closely two classic texts in the history of liberal toleration, and then to consider their possible relevance to contemporary views in which diversity is to be celebrated, rather than “tolerated”.

The two classic texts are Locke’s *Letter Concerning Toleration* and J.S. Mill’s *On Liberty*. In discussing the former we will also draw on Locke’s more elaborate defence of his position in his later “Letters on Toleration”, written in response to a persistent critic. In discussing both Locke and Mill, and “toleration” generally, we will also read a small number of recent interpretive articles. We will then examine the claim that liberalism should encompass cultural rights, and the further claim that toleration should give way to the “recognition” of minorities.

Text:

Locke on Toleration, Richard Vernon ed., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

-- In the UWO bookstore. I am assuming that everyone will already have or can easily get access to an edition of Mill containing *On Liberty* and *Utilitarianism*.

Other readings will be made available by the instructor (single photocopy).

Evaluation:

1. A final essay, worth 60%. The suggested length is 12-15 pages. The topic, to be discussed with the instructor, must be on, or else arise directly from, one of the texts discussed in the course. Depending on the topic, additional readings may or may not be needed for the essay.
2. A mid-term take-home exam., 20%. You will be asked to write a 6-page paper on an article that will be assigned in week 8, the paper to be returned at the class in week 9, when we will discuss our views of the article.
3. General participation, 20%.

Topics and readings.

1. (Sept. 10). Introduction to the course. No readings.
2. (Sept. 17). Locke (1): Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, and Jonas Proast, *The Argument of the Letter Concerning Toleration Consider’d and Answer’d*.
3. (Sept. 24). Locke (2): Read on in *Locke on Toleration* to page 146.

4. (Oct.1). Three papers on toleration: Jeremy Waldron, "John Locke and the Rationality of Persecution", in Susan Mendus ed, *Justifying Toleration*; Bernard Williams, "Toleration: An Impossible Virtue?" and T.M. Scanlon, "The Difficulty of Tolerance", both in David Heyd ed., *Toleration: An Elusive Virtue*.
 5. (Oct. 8). Thanksgiving holiday.
 6. (Oct. 15). Mill, *Utilitarianism* chapters 2, 5, *On Liberty* chapters 1 and 2.
 7. (Oct. 22). *On Liberty*, chapters 3, 4, 5.
 8. (Oct. 29). Papers by Patrick Riley, "Racism, Blasphemy and Free Speech", and Jeremy Waldron, "Mill and Multiculturalism", both in C.L. Ten ed., *Mill's On Liberty*, and Joel Feinberg, "Harmless Wrongdoing", in Gerald Dworkin ed., *Morality, Harm and the Law*. **Pick up mid-term exam.**
 9. (Nov. 5). **Return mid-term exam.** Discussion of answers.
 10. (Nov. 12). Will Kymlicka, *Liberalism, Community and Culture*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989, chapters 8 and 9.
Kwame Anthony Appiah, *The Ethics of Identity*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005, chapter 4.
 11. (Nov. 19). Charles Taylor, "The Politics of Recognition", and Susan Wolf, "Comment", both in Amy Gutmann ed., *Multiculturalism*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.
 12. (Nov. 26). Anna Elisabetta Galeotti, *Toleration as Recognition*, chapters 3 and 4: Peter Jones, "Toleration, Recognition and Identity", *Journal of Political Philosophy* 14 (2006), 123-43.
 13. (Dec. 3). TBA. An appointment to discuss your essay topic is **mandatory** this week.
- December 14: final essay due. Late essays subject to a penalty of 2% per day.

(Graduate) Statement of Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf