

Politics 9506b/Philosophy 9122b (Winter 2020)

Toleration

Instructor: Richard Vernon ravernon@uwo.ca SSC 4216

In this course we shall examine the emergence of toleration as a political topic, in the debate between John Locke and Jonas Proast (1689-1704), consider the contemporary significance of toleration and the moral and/or epistemological premises on which it can be based, and finally discuss three case studies – the place of religion in public life, cultural accommodation, and the regulation of hate speech.

Topics and readings are listed below. Readings will be available on *Course Readings*. The only required text is *Locke on Toleration* (Cambridge University Press 2010, available in UWO bookstore and Weldon). It is assumed that students will have access to a personal or library copy of Mill *On Liberty*.

Evaluation: a final essay, due April 15, worth 70%: class participation, 30%. The essay (15-20 pages is expected) will critically explore one of the week's topics, while also showing an appreciation of its place in the overall theme of the class. I am open to proposals for essay topics that will span two or more weeks' readings.

Topics and readings:

1 (Jan 13): Locke's toleration – was it Protestant, fallibilist, or egalitarian? Let's discuss it: *Locke on Toleration* pp 1-66.

2 (Jan 20): Locke's toleration – was it Protestant, fallibilist, or egalitarian? Let's discuss it some more: *Locke on Toleration*, remainder of book

3 (Jan 27): Interpretations:

Vernon, *Locke on Toleration*, Introduction

Jeremy Waldron "Locke, Toleration and the Rationality of Persecution" in Susan Mendus ed, *Toleration* Cambridge University Press 1988, 61-86.

Adam Wolfson *Persecution or Toleration?* Lexington Books 2010, chapter 4 (59-78)

4 (Feb 3): Toleration today (?):

Bernard Williams "Toleration: An Impossible Virtue,"? George Fletcher "The Instability of Tolerance", T.M.Scanlon, "The Difficulty of Tolerance," all in David Heyd ed. *Toleration: An Elusive Virtue*, Princeton University Press 1988.

5. (Feb 10): From toleration to recognition? Charles Taylor *The Politics of Recognition* in Amy Gutmann ed. *Multiculturalism*, Princeton University Press 1994, 25-73

Anna Galeotti *Toleration as Recognition* Cambridge University Press 2002, chapter 4 (115-36).

Peter Jones "Toleration Recognition and Identity" *Journal of Political Philosophy* 14 (2006) 123-43.

6 (Feb 24): The moral-pluralist case:

Isaiah Berlin *The Crooked Timber of Humanity* Knopf 1991, chapter 2 (1-19).

Joseph Raz "Autonomy, Toleration and the Harm Principle" in Susan Mendus ed. *Toleration*, Cambridge University Press 1988, 155-75.

Susan Wolf "Two Levels of Pluralism" *Ethics* 102 (1992), 785-98.

7 (Mar 2): Agonism:

W.B. Gallie "Essentially Contested Concepts" *Proceedings of the Aristotelean Society* 1956, 167-98.

Jonathan White and Lea Ypi, "Partisan Justification," Oxford Scholarship Online 2016: Google Scholar

8 (Mar 9): Autonomy:

J.S. Mill, *On Liberty* chapter 3 [personal or library copy]

Sarah Conly *Against Autonomy* Cambridge University Press 2013, chapters 1 and 2 (16-46)

? 9 (Mar 16). Religion in public life:

Robert Audi "The State, the Church and the Citizen" and Nicholas Wolterstorff "Why We Should Reject What Liberalism Tells Us" in Paul Weithman ed. *Religion and Contemporary Liberalism* U. of Notre Dame 1997

Richard Rorty "Religion in the Public Square," *Journal of Religious Ethics* 31 (2003). 141-9.

10 (Mar 23): Cultural Accommodation:

Will Kymlicka *Liberalism, Community and Culture* Oxford University Press 1989, chapter 8, (162-81).

Kwame Anthony Appiah *The Ethics of Identity* Princeton University Press 2003, chapter 4 (114-54).

Robert Sparrow "Defending Deaf Culture" *Journal of Political Philosophy* 13 (2005), 135-52.

11 (Mar 30): Hate Speech:

J.S.Mill *On Liberty*, chapter 2 [personal or library copy]

Dale Miller "J.S. Mill and Charlottesville" *Civil American* 2 (2017),
<https://goo.gl/zs3TDn>

Robert Mark Simpson "Dignity, Harm and Hate Speech" *Law and Philosophy* 32 (2013), 701-28.