Course Description

The most powerful actors in global politics are liberal ones, and a liberal project around democratic states, international law and organizations, and free trade dominates the global agenda. This course is an investigation into this global liberal project, engaging both theory and practice. We will discuss signature liberal theorists both classical and current as well as some of their most notable critics. We will also attend to empirical evaluations of signature liberal efforts around democratization, development, and human rights. The course ends with a discussion of the successes and failures of the European Union as the principal embodiment of the liberal project today.

Readings

As a 4xx-level senior seminar, this is a book-focused reading-intensive course. The level and amount of reading is challenging but certainly not beyond any student’s capabilities. All students will be expected to keep up with the readings during the semester and contribute constructively to class discussion.

This course is structured around 10 books and a course reader in two parts. The books are:


You may pick up the first course reader now at Whitmans Dining Hall through Feb. 8. Beginning Feb. 10 the packets will be available in the packet room in the Class of ’37 House (51 Park St.). Subsequent readers will be available later in the semester. All books are available for purchase at Water Street Books or from your favorite on-line retailer.
Course requirements and grades

This course demands active student participation. Your engagement with the material and with one another is the heart of any seminar, and for this one to succeed, your constant commitment is essential. For most of you, this is the senior seminar in your major. If you are tempted to cut back your academic effort, arrange your schedule so that you do so in some other class. Regular critical engagement with the ideas presented in class is the backbone of our work this semester. The assignments have been crafted with that goal in mind.

Every class session

For every class session, one student will write a 1700-2400 word review and reaction paper on that day’s assigned readings which will form the basis of class discussion. Roughly half the paper should be dedicated to outlining the arguments of the author(s) and about half to a critical engagement with those arguments. Each student should endeavor to speak to me in my office before class about his/her paper. Each student also must distribute an electronic copy of that paper to me and to the student(s) offering a critical reply (described in the next paragraph) at least 24 hours before class. The student will present that paper orally in class to begin discussion. The presentation should last 9-10 minutes with a 10 minute maximum. I will time your presentation. It is preferable to speak from notes rather than read your paper verbatim—especially considering it is impossible to read a 2400-word paper aloud in 10 minutes without droning and gasping like a college debater!

Zero, one or two other students will offer a critical reply to each review and reaction paper. This is strictly an oral response presented in class. There is no need to hand in a typed paper to me. The presentation should last 4-5 minutes with a 5 minute maximum. I will time your presentation.

During the semester each student must complete one of the following three options:

[1] 3 review and reaction papers and 0 critical replies; or
[2] 2 review and reaction papers and 2 critical replies; or
[3] 1 review and reaction paper and 4 critical replies;

Students preparing neither a review and reaction paper nor a critical reply for a particular class will write 1-2 discussion questions relevant to the day’s readings. These questions should be thoughtful engagements with the main ideas from the text(s) and thus go beyond a simple one-sentence query. Possible questions might explore unclear passages in the readings, point out notable gaps in an author’s discussion, or offer critiques of an author’s argument. The best questions will be framed by a brief (< 300 words) discussion. I will use these questions to guide class discussion each day, including calling on you in class based on your remarks. Use our course Glow page to submit them. Questions are due by 9.00am the day of class. Glow will lock automatically at that time and will not accept any questions submitted after the deadline. I will grade questions on a check-plus/check/check-minus scale.
Term paper

As this is a senior seminar, you will write a 4000-5000 word paper on a subject of your choice related to the topic of the liberal project in global politics. Students may incorporate review and reaction papers into this project as they see fit. I will meet with each student individually in early May to assist in formulating a topic and writing plan.

Class participation

Regular attendance and constructive participation is necessary for this course to be successful and is therefore expected; unexcused absences and a failure to engage the material in class will be noted. More than one unexcused absence will result in a grade penalty.

Honor Code

While you may consult with your friends, fellow classmates, professors, and printed sources on the ideas discussed in this class, all written work must ultimately be yours and yours alone. In particular, be scrupulous in avoiding plagiarism. Be sure to use quote marks when quoting directly and cite appropriately. For most this is your last semester at Williams. You do not want an Honor Code violation stopping you from graduating.

Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review and reaction papers</td>
<td>16% ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical reply</td>
<td>8% ea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Course calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>no readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Liberal foundations I</td>
<td>Immanuel Kant, <em>Toward Perpetual Peace and Other Writings</em>, 3-16, 17-23, 67-109, 139-149. [book]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John Stuart Mill, <em>Considerations on Representative Government</em>. Edited by Curran V. Shields (1959 [1861]), chs. 3-4 &amp; 18. [reader]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ryszard Legutko, <em>The Demon in Democracy</em> (2016), ch. 3. [reader]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Adrian Vermeule, “All human conflict is ultimately theological,” <em>Church Life Journal</em>, 26 July 2019. [reader]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECURITY

Monday
Feb. 28
The liberal democratic peace I

- Bruce Russett and John Oneal, Triangulating Peace, chs. 1-3. [book]
- “Interpreting regression output (without all the statistics theory),” GraduateTutor.com [online]. [reader—optional]

Thursday
March 3
The liberal democratic peace II

- Bruce Russett and John Oneal, Triangulating Peace, chs. 4-5. [book]

Monday
March 7
The liberal democratic peace III

- Bruce Russett and John Oneal, Triangulating Peace, chs. 6 & 8. [book]
- Bruce Russett, “Bushwhacking the democratic peace,” International Studies Perspectives 6 (2005), 395-408. [reader]

Thursday
March 10
Critiques of the liberal democratic peace


Monday
March 14
Liberal democratic war

- Anna Geis et al., eds., The Militant Face of Democracy (2013), chs. 1 & 10. [reader]

Thursday
March 17
No class – enjoy an early spring break!
### DEVELOPMENT

**Monday April 4**

**Development as a liberal project**

- Jeffrey D. Sachs, *The End of Poverty* (2005), ch. 18. [reader]

**Thursday April 7**

**A liberal explanation of poverty**


**Monday April 11**

**A liberal agenda to end poverty**

- Nina Munk, *The Idealist*, parts 3-4. [book]

**Thursday April 14**

**Jeff Sachs and the end of poverty**


**Monday April 18**

**Critiquing liberal development economics**

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Thursday April 21
Liberalism, realism, and international law

Monday April 25
A critique of human rights I

Thursday April 28
A critique of human rights II
- Stephen Hopgood, The Endtimes of Human Rights, chs. 5-8. [book]

Monday May 2
A defense of human rights I
- Kathryn Sikkink, Evidence for Hope, chs. 1-4. [book]

Thursday May 5
A defense of human rights II
- Kathryn Sikkink, Evidence for Hope, chs. 5-7. [book]

THE FUTURE OF THE LIBERAL PROJECT

Monday May 9
The European Union I

Thursday May 12
The European Union II
- Ivan Krastev, After Europe. [book]