COURSE DETAIL

SPECIAL ISSUES IN POLITICAL THEORY: LIBERALISM VS. IDENTITY POLITICS: SEX/“GENDER”, RACE, RELIGION, AND FREE SPEECH

Country
Hong Kong

Host Institution
University of Hong Kong

Program(s)
University of Hong Kong

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science

UCEAP Course Number
154

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
SPECIAL ISSUES IN POLITICAL THEORY: LIBERALISM VS. IDENTITY POLITICS: SEX/“GENDER”, RACE, RELIGION, AND FREE SPEECH

UCEAP Transcript Title
ISSUES: POL THEORY

UCEAP Quarter Units
5.00

UCEAP Semester Units
3.30

Course Description

Liberalism aspires to the greatest possible freedom constrained only by a system of mutually compatible individual rights and the intrinsic value of individuals. Thus its core value is freedom, and its outlook individualist. Recently, liberalism has been challenged by a left-leaning “identity politics” that gives precedence to groups (especially understood in terms of race, religion, and sex/“gender”) over individuals; to “safe spaces” and the protection against alleged “psychological harms” and “offense” over freedom of speech; and to equality of outcome over equality of opportunity. The latter point is due to the fact that “identity politics” can only conceive of significant statistical group differences in terms of achievements in certain fields as the result of one group ”discriminating” against the other instead of as the natural effect of culturally (let alone biologically) mediated differences in average preferences and abilities playing themselves out in a free society. This course will critically evaluate the relative philosophical, moral, and political merits of liberalism as compared to “identity politics.”

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
POLI3002

Host Institution Course Title
SPECIAL ISSUES IN POLITICAL THEORY: LIBERALISM VS. IDENTITY POLITICS: SEX/“GENDER”, RACE, RELIGION, AND FREE SPEECH

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department
Course Last Reviewed 2023-2024

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