

## 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**

148

**UCEAP Course Suffix****UCEAP Official Title**

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**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**

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### **Host Institution Campus**

### **Host Institution Faculty**

### **Host Institution Degree**

## Host Institution Department

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