

Subfield: Political Theory
Field: America

Subfield courses:

Gov 94le: "Liberalism and Empire"

(to be replaced with Gov 1061: "History of Modern Political Philosophy" if I can't get into 94le)

ER 11: "Human Rights: A Philosophical Introduction"

I am interested in the ways that Americans have developed, articulated, understood, deployed, and contested key concepts in political theory. These concepts include freedom, equality, republicanism, democracy, sovereignty, nationhood, and rights ("natural," civil, human). For my subfield, I propose to explore these concepts through two courses in connection with my other coursework in the America field in History and Literature.

In my coursework in the America field, I am considering how the political thought of the American founding (Gov 1074)—and its blind spots—figured into later black freedom struggles (HL 90l: "Stories of Slavery and Freedom") and how its supposed universalism both justified and came into tension with the American imperialism (USW 28: "Slavery/Capitalism/Imperialism"; HL 90ak: "The Vietnam War in American Culture"). I am especially interested in what John Stuart Mill and others observed to be a tension between liberalism at home and despotism abroad even as they defended imperialism in terms of the spread of liberal ideas and values. This is the central theme of Professor Welch's seminar (Gov 94le: "Liberalism and Empire"); if I can't get into that seminar, I'll replace it with Professor Rosenblum's "History of Modern Political Philosophy" (Gov 1061).

I also hope to explore the relationships between negative and positive freedom and between formal and participatory democracy by taking one course in my field (Hist 1330: "Social Thought in Modern America") and adding ER 11, "Human Rights: A Philosophical Introduction" for my subfield. Along these lines, we did a unit in my junior tutorial last semester on neoliberalism and its critics. For my senior thesis, I am thinking about a project on U.S. interventions in Latin America in the 1980s, possibly with a focus on Joan Didion's 1983 book and Oliver Stone's 1986 film about El Salvador.

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

America Field Worksheet for the Class of 2017

- Complete this worksheet as you fill out your Plan of Concentration and discuss it with your tutor.
- **Submit this worksheet with your Plan of Concentration.**
- You will need to submit petitions for any courses that do NOT appear on the list of Courses that Count.
- * Note that courses on the Courses that Count list **always** count toward your concentration GPA, whether or not they are listed on your field worksheet.
- * If you have a transatlantic or hemispheric focus, allocate TWO of the THREE elective half-courses to that focus.

Semester	Course #	Course Title	A	B	C	D
ONE half-course in the literature of a foreign language						
	Span 71b	Intro to Modern Latin American Lit				
THREE half-courses in the period before 1865, including pre-contact, colonial, early republic, and antebellum						
ONE half-course in American history pre-1865						
	USW 28	Slavery/Capitalism/Imperialism	X		X	
ONE half-course in American literature pre-1865						
	HL90I	Stories of Slavery and Freedom				X
ONE half-course in American history or literature pre-1865						
	Gov 1074	Political Thought of the American Founding				
TWO half-courses in the period 1865-1945						
ONE half-course in American history 1865-1945						
	Hist 1330	Social Thought in Modern America				
ONE half-course in American literature 1865-1945						
	Eng 178x	The American Novel: Dreiser to Present		X		
THREE elective half-courses in the America field, balanced between history and literature (any period)						
	HL90ak	The Vietnam War in American Culture				
	Gov 941e	Liberalism and Empire				
	ER11	Human Rights: A Philosophical Introduction				

TUTORIAL: Check tutorials you've taken or plan to take. For a missed tutorial, indicate substitute course.

HL97	
HL98 (Fall)	HL98 (Spring)
HL99 (Fall)	HL99 (Spring)

Plans must include the following requirements (check columns on right side of worksheet):

- A. One half-course lecture or survey in *history* that substantially covers at least one century.
 - B. One half-course lecture or survey in *literature* that substantially covers at least one century.
 - C. At least one half-course in *history* that emphasizes the relationship between America and its neighbors, or current territories and former colonies, or examines multilingual/multi-cultural populations within America.
 - D. At least one half-course in *literature* that emphasizes the relationship between America and its neighbors, or current territories and former colonies, or examines multilingual/multi-cultural populations within America.
- A particular course may fulfill more than one of the above requirements. Your completed form should include one check mark in each of the columns (A,B,C,D) to indicate which course will meet those requirements. A single course may fulfill both the survey and the multicultural requirements for EITHER history OR literature, but not both (i.e. A and C, or B and D).*