

Barnard College  
First-Year Seminar  
Spring 2002

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FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR ON  
THE INDIVIDUAL, THE COMMUNITY, AND THE GOOD  
FYSB BC 1266

MON WED 1:10PM-2:25PM  
22 Lehman Hall

**Course description:** Many of the great modern political thinkers have focused attention on the possible conflict between individual liberty and the community; often, criticisms of individual freedom are coupled with appeals to a communal good. Close reading of some of the canonical writers in this debate--Rawls, Nozick, Sandel, MacIntyre, Okin, Leibniz, Weber--with attention to similarities as well as differences between "liberals" and "communitarians."

**Requirements:** Five 1-page, two 2-page, two 4-page, and one 8-page paper, the latter of which will go through two graded drafts. Each paper, including the first draft of the last paper, will count for 5 percent of the course grade (total = 50 percent); but the second and final draft of the last paper will count for 25 percent. Class participation: 25 pct.

**Readings:**

John Rawls, A Theory of Justice  
Robert Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia  
Michael Sandel, Liberalism and the Limits of Justice  
Alasdair MacIntyre, After Virtue  
Susan Moller Okin, Justice, Gender, and the Family  
G. W. Leibniz, Theodicy  
Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in Gerth and Mills, eds., From Max Weber

**Schedule:** Course meets MONDAY, WEDNESDAY 1:10-2:25 PM

1/23: Why study the conflict between individual, community, and good?

THE INDIVIDUAL

- 1/28: discuss Rawls, A Theory of Justice, ch. 1  
\*\*\*1-page paper on the reading due at beginning of class
- 1/30: discuss Rawls, ch. 2  
\*\*\*1-page paper on the reading due at beginning of class
- 2/4: discuss Rawls, ch. 3  
\*\*\*1-page paper on the reading due at beginning of class
- 2/6: discuss Nozick, Anarchy, State, and Utopia, ch. 7, sec. I  
\*\*\*1-page paper on the reading due at beginning of class
- 2/11: discuss Nozick, ch. 7, sec. II  
\*\*\*1-page paper on the reading due at beginning of class

## THE COMMUNITY

- 2/13: discuss Sandel, Liberalism & the Limits of Justice, Introduction  
\*\*\*2-page paper on Rawls and Nozick due at beginning of class
- 2/18: discuss Sandel, ch. 1
- 2/20: discuss Sandel, ch. 2
- 2/25: discuss Sandel, ch. 3  
\*\*\*2-page paper on Sandel due at beginning of class
- 2/27: discuss Sandel, ch. 4
- 3/4: discuss Sandel, Conclusion
- 3/6: discuss MacIntyre, After Virtue, pp. ix-36  
\*\*\*4-pp. paper on Sandel & Rawls or Nozick due before class
- 3/11: discuss MacIntyre, ch. 9
- 3/13: discuss MacIntyre, chs. 10, 14  
\* \* \* \* \* SPRING BREAK \* \* \* \* \*
- 3/25: discuss MacIntyre, chs. 15-17
- 3/27: discuss MacIntyre, chs. 18-19
- 4/1: \*\*\* \_\_\_ copies of 4-page paper on MacIntyre due at beginning of class
- 4/3: discuss each other's MacIntyre papers

## THE GOOD

- 4/8: discuss Okin, Justice, Gender, & the Family, chs. 1-4
- 4/9: discuss Okin, chs. 5-8
- 4/15: discuss Leibniz, Theodicy, "Essays on the Justice of God & the Freedom of Man in  
the Origin of Evil," pt. 1, pp. 123-50
- 4/17: discuss Leibniz, pp. 151-81
- 4/22: discuss Weber, "Politics as a Vocation"
- 4/24: \*\*\*1st draft of final paper due
- 4/29: graded 1st drafts returned in class; concluding discussion
- 5/1: final drafts of final papers due