Professor Stephen Eric Bronner

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Department of Political Science

790:610—Foundations of Human Rights, Spring 2015

Thursdays 3:00PM – 5:40PM, Hickman 313

Office hours: Thursday, before class

Syllabus

This course will explore the character and assumptions underpinning international relations: it will deal with issues like reason of state, balance of power, economic determinism, and, especially, human rights. The course will employ a number of classic texts along with some films, as well. Requirements will include an in-class presentation and either two book reviews or a paper dealing with a component of the course.

Required Readings

Stephen Eric Bronner, *Moments of Decision*

Stephen Eric Bronner, *Reclaiming the Enlightenment*

Stephen Eric Bronner (ed.), *Twentieth Century Political Theory*

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

J.A. Hobson, *Imperialism*

Samuel Huntington, *Who Are We?*

Micheline Ishay (ed.), *The Human Rights Reader*

Immanuel Kant, *Political Writings* (ed. H.S. Reiss)

V.I. Lenin, *The Lenin Anthology* (ed. Robert C. Tucker)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Karl Marx, *The Marx Reader* (ed. Robert C. Tucker)

Albert Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*

Meera Nanda, *Prophets Facing Backward*

John Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*

Edward Said, *Covering Islam*

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*

Carl Schmitt, *The Leviathan in the State Theory of Thomas Hobbes*

Joseph Schumpeter, *Imperialism and Social Classes*

Films

*Battle of Algiers*

*Burn!*

*Destiny*

*Gandhi*

*Salvador*

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**

Introduction

**Week 2-3**

Ishay (ed.), *The Human Rights Reader*, pgs. 8-92

**Week 4**

Machiavelli, *The Prince*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Books II and III

Schmitt, *The Leviathan in the State Theory of Thomas Hobbes*

Bronner, “[The Sovereign](http://logosjournal.com/2013/bronner_sovereign/)” in *Logos* Vol. 12, No. 3 (2013)

**Week 5**

Ishay, *The Human Rights Reader*, pgs. 483-491

Bronner**,** *Reclaiming the Enlightenment*, pgs. 1-80, 133-167

Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” in Reiss (ed.), *Kant: Political Writings*, pgs. 54-63

\_\_\_, “Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Purpose” in *Kant: Political Writings*, pgs. 41-52  
\_\_\_, “Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” in *Kant: Political Writings*, pgs. 93-130

**Week 6**

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*

Herzl, “The Jewish Question,” in Bronner (ed.), *Twentieth Century Political Theory*, pgs. 145-52

Barrès, “Scenes and Doctrines of Nationalism” in *Twentieth Century Political Theory*, pgs. 143-4

Marx, “On the Jewish Question” in Tucker (ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pgs. 26-52

**Week 7-8**

Marx and Engels, “The Communist Manifesto” in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pgs. 469-500

Marx, “The British Rule in India,” in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, pgs. 653-8

Schumpeter, *Imperialism and Social Classes*

Hobson, *Imperialism*

Lenin, *Imperialism*, in Tucker (ed.), *The Lenin Anthology*, pgs. 204-74

**Week 9:**

Lenin “The Right of Nations to Self-Determination,” in *The Lenin Anthology*, pgs. 153-180

Luxemburg, “[The Right of Nations to Self-Determination](https://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1909/national-question/ch01.htm),” from *The National Question*

Nussbaum, “Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism” in *Twentieth Century Political Theory*, pgs. 159-67

Film: *Burn!*

**Week 10**

Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

Memmi, *The Colonizer and the Colonized*

Films: *Battle of Algiers* and *Gandhi*

**Week 11**

Ishay, *The Human Rights Reader*, pgs. 339-388

**Week 12:**

Rawls, *The Law of Peoples*

Film: Salvador

**Week 13**

Said, *Covering Islam*

Bronner, “[America’s Israel](http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/277-75/22329-focus-americas-israel)” *Reader Supported News* (March 1, 2014)

Bronner, “[Constructing Neo-Conservatism](http://www.logosjournal.com/bronner_neocon.htm)” in *Logos* 3 (2004)

Huntington, *Who are We?*, pgs. xv-33 and 295-366

\_\_\_, “[The Clash of Civilizations?](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/48950/samuel-p-huntington/the-clash-of-civilizations)” *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993)

Francis Fukuyama, “[The End of History](http://www.wesjones.com/eoh.htm),” *The National Interest* (Summer 1989)

**Week 14**

Ishay, *The Human Rights Reader*, pgs. 95-114, 389-437, 456-465

Bronner, “[On Judging American Foreign Policy](http://logosjournal.com/2011/summer_bronner/),” *Logos* 13 (2011)