

# CEU Summer University

## Freedom and Experiences of Subjugation

### *Course Directors and Faculty*

Directors:

John Christman, Depts. of Philosophy and Political Science, Penn State University  
David Weberman, Dept. of Philosophy, Central European University

Additional Faculty

Thomas Christiano, Philosophy, University of Arizona  
Fred Neuhauser, Philosophy, Columbia University  
Beate Rossler, University of Amsterdam

Additional Lectures

Janos Kis, Philosophy, CEU and Political Science, NYU  
Jason Hill, Philosophy, DePaul University

### *General Description*

This course will undertake an examination of the concept of freedom (or “liberty”) as it has been analyzed in philosophy and political theory in recent decades. We will then intersperse this with readings of first- and third-person accounts of subjugation, oppression, and slavery. We will inquire whether or the degree to which such narratives alter or shift dominant understandings of the concept of freedom, as we will utilize these investigations in order to inquire into the alleged universality of the value of human freedom.

The Course will be divided into three parts:

- i) History and conceptual analysis of freedom
- ii) Voices of subjugation and re-examination of idea(s) of freedom
- iii) Freedom as a universal value

### *Texts will include:*

1. Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty”
2. Nancy Hirschmann, excerpt from *The Subject of Freedom* (Princeton U. Press)
3. Ian Carter, et. al., eds., excerpt from *Freedom: A Philosophical Anthology* (Blackwell)
4. Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (Signet)
5. Seyla Benhabib, excerpt from *The Rights of Others*
6. Saba Mahmood, excerpt from *Politics and Piety*

### *Requirements:*

To do well in this class, it is essential that you attend class, carefully read the assigned material prior to class, and be prepared to participate in class discussions. Written, oral, or research work on the part of students will be determined prior to the beginning of the seminar.

*Tentative Class Schedule*

MEETING DAY	TOPICS	RESOURCE PERSON	NO. OF HOURS	TEACHING MODE	DISCUSSION POINTS
	Week 1				
Monday a.m.	Introduction	John Christman	2	Introduction to Class, Presentation	Topical prospectus, general overview of course, discussion of participants' projects and research interests
Monday p.m.	Freedom as a Concept: Overview	John Christman, David Weberman	2	Lecture	Major tensions in approaches to freedom; relevance of study of subjugation and oppression to theories of freedom.
Tuesday a.m.	Freedom in Western Political Thought I	Fred Neuhauser	2	Lecture	Overview of some major approaches to concepts of free person in Western philosophy.
Tuesday p.m.	Freedom in Western Thought II	Fred Neuhauser	2	Lecture	Overview of some major approaches to concepts of free person in Western philosophy. Focus on key figures in 18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.
Wednesday a.m.	Freedom and 20 <sup>th</sup> Century European Thought	David Weberman	2	Lecture	Major trends in approaches to freedom, power, and related ideas in 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century European thought.
Wednesday p.m.	Debates on the concept of Freedom I	John Christman	2	Lecture	Critical analyses of concepts of freedom and liberty in political philosophy.
Thursday a.m.	Debates on Concept of Freedom II	John Christman	2	Lecture	Analysis and discussion of concepts of freedom.
Thursday p.m.	Freedom and Democracy I	Thomas Christiano	2	Lecture	Relation between freedom and other key concepts in democratic theory (justice, equality, etc.)
Friday a.m.	Freedom and Democracy II	Thomas Christiano	2	Lecture and critical discussion of set texts	Further discussion of freedom, democracy and justice.
Friday p.m.	Freedom and Marxism	Janos Kis	2	Guest Lecture	Themes relating to freedom in Marxist thought.

Week 2					
Monday a.m.	Introduction to Week 2 and Mid-Course Discussion		2	Presentation and Discussion	Transition from week 1 to 2: discussion of different views on the relationship between the metaphysics and ethics of responsibility. General overview of week 2.
Monday p.m.	Critical approaches to Principles of Freedom	Beate Rossler	2	Lecture and critical discussion of set texts	Critiques of standard conceptions of freedom.
Tuesday a.m.	Feminism and Freedom	Beate Rossler	2	Seminar: critical discussion of set texts	Feminist critique and reformulation of concepts of freedom and autonomy
Tuesday p.m.	Experiences of Subjugation I: Slavery	TBA	2	Guest Lecture	Discussion of accounts of slavery, oppression, and Subjugation.
Wednesday a.m.	Freedom and Religious Practices	John Christman	2	Seminar: critical discussion of set texts	Discussion of allegedly oppressive practices (other veiling, restrictive practices)
Wednesday p.m.	Experiences of Subjugation	TBA	2	Lecture	Consideration of other forms of oppression (human trafficking, forced prostitution, etc.)
Thursday a.m.	Freedom as a Universal Value	Jason Hill	2	Guest Lecture	Cosmopolitanism and freedom as a global value.
Thursday p.m.	Overview of Course Themes	All Instructors	2	Discussion	
Friday a.m.	<i>Participant Presentations</i>	<i>Participants</i>	2		<i>Presentation of position papers and/or students' own work commented by resource persons and other participants</i>
Friday p.m.	<i>Participant Presentations</i>	<i>Participants</i>	2		<i>Presentation of position papers and/or students' own work commented by resource persons and other participants</i>