

Foreigners and their Rights: a Critical Reading of Theories of Hospitality and Xenophobia

Unbound Prometheus Summer School

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Instructor

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Course Description

This course explores the theoretical and ethical issues surrounding the incorporation of foreigners into political communities. The focus is on the philosophical significance of the guest-host relationship in pluralist societies, and the rights of, and duties towards, foreigners in a global context. The course is divided into two sections. In the first section, we analyze theories of hospitality as considered by the Greek and Judeo-Christian traditions, Immanuel Kant, Hannah Arendt, Emmanuel Levinas, and Jacques Derrida. In the second section, we investigate hospitality from the perspective of applied ethics, with a focus on the debates over foreigners' rights to political membership in liberal democracies. The readings place an emphasis on the scholarly debates on the philosophical and historical meaning of hospitality. Some of the questions we ask are: what does it mean to be hospitable according to Socrates and Plato? Is xenophobia ever justified, if so under what circumstances? Do states have a right to exclude foreigners from crossing their borders? Are there any universal rights of hospitality?

Required Texts

1. Benhabib, Seyla. *The Rights of Others*. Cambridge University Press, 2004.
2. Derrida, Jacques. *Of Hospitality*. Stanford University Press, 2000.
3. Kant, Immanuel. *Perpetual peace. A Philosophical Sketch*, 1795. (Available online).

Please note: Students must obtain the required texts prior to joining the course.

The remaining readings will be available online.

Course Requirements

The course requirements are:

20% – Attendance and participation in the class debates

- Students are required to attend class regularly, actively participate during the lectures, and keep up with the class readings and assignments. Class participation offers students philosophical and policy debates, fruitful exchanges of ideas with other students, and opportunities to analyze contentious issues.

20% – Class presentations, due every week.

- Students will be assigned one reading to present to the class by the end of the course. In the class presentations, students will address the author's main thesis and provide counterarguments to challenge the author's view.

20% – Midterm Exam, due on Lecture 5.

- The midterm exam consists of a philosophical essay addressing the academic debate on hospitality (1000 words). More details on the structure of the paper will be provided in class.

40% – Final paper, due two weeks after completion of the course.

- The final paper consists of a research paper addressing the academic debate on immigration (7000-8000 words). More details on the structure of the paper will be provided in class.

Course Schedule

Lecture 1 – *Introduction, what is hospitality?*

Readings:

1. Pitt-Rivers, Julian. "The law of hospitality." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 2, 1 (2012): 501-517.
2. Benhabib, Seyla. 2004. "Introduction". In *The Rights of Others*, 1-24. Cambridge University Press.
3. Pevnick, Ryan. 2011. "Introduction". In *Immigration and the Constraints of Justice*, 1-18. Cambridge University Press.
4. Derrida, Jacques. 2005 "The principle of hospitality." *Parallax*, 11, no. 1: 6-9.
5. Derrida, Jacques. *Of Hospitality*. Stanford University Press, 2000.

Lecture 2 – *Dionysus, Odysseus, Oedipus and Socrates: figures of the foreigner among the Greeks.*

Readings:

1. Kerenyi, Karl. 1996. "The myths of arrival". In *Dionysos: archetypal image of indestructible life*, 129-188. Princeton University Press.
2. Reece, Steve. 1992. "The conventions of the Homeric hospitality scene". In *The stranger's welcome: oral theory and the aesthetics of the Homeric hospitality scene*, 5-46. University of Michigan Press.
3. Sophocles, *Oedipus at Colonus*.
4. Plato, *The apology*.
5. Plato, *Crito*.

Lecture 3 – *Abraham, Mary and the ethics of hospitality in the Judeo-Christian tradition.*

Readings:

1. Genesis, 18:1-33.
2. Mcknelly Kearns, Cleo. 2005. "Mary, maternity and Abrahamic hospitality in Derrida's reading of Massignon". In *Derrida and religion. Other testaments*, edited by Yvonne Sherwood and Kevin Hart, 73-96. Routledge.
3. Waller, Gary. 2015. "Constructing the invented traditions of the Annunciation story: angel, virgin, conception". In *A Cultural Study of Mary and the Annunciation: From Luke to the Enlightenment*, 37-50. Routledge.
4. Waller, Gary. 2015. "Constructing the invented traditions of the Annunciation story: motherhood, obedience, humility". In *A Cultural Study of Mary and the Annunciation: From Luke to the Enlightenment*, 51-68. Routledge.
5. Pohl, Christine and Pamela Buck. "A short history of Christian hospitality". In *Making room. Recovering hospitality as a Christian tradition*, 36-60. Eerdmans Publishing.

Lecture 4 – *Kant's cosmopolitanism as conditional hospitality.*

Readings:

1. Kant, Immanuel. 1795. *Perpetual peace. A Philosophical Sketch*.
2. Carson Thomas L. 1988. "Perpetual peace: what Kant should have said". *Social theory and practice*, 14, no. 2: 173-214.
3. Benhabib, Seyla. 2004. "Rereading Kant's cosmopolitan right". In *The Rights of Others*, 25-48. Cambridge University Press.
4. Benhabib, Seyla. 2004. "The Law of Peoples, Distributive Justice, and Migrations". *Fordham Law Review*, 72, no. 5: 1761-1787.
5. Ypi, Lea. 2013. "What's wrong with colonialism". *Philosophy and public affairs*, 41, no. 2: 158-191.

Lecture 5 – Arendt: on the inhospitable character of statelessness.

Readings:

1. Arendt, Hannah. 1976. "The Decline of the Nation-State and the Ends of the Rights of Man." In *The origins of totalitarianism*, 267-304. Harcourt.
2. Arendt, Hannah. 1996. "We refugees". In *Altogether elsewhere. Writers in exile*, 110-119. Ed. by Marc Robinson. Faber and Faber.
3. Agamben, Giorgio. 1995. "We refugees". *Symposium* 49, 2: 114-119.
4. Benhabib, Seyla. 2004. "The right to have rights: Hannah Arendt on the contradictions of the nation state". In *The Rights of Others*, 49-70. Cambridge University Press.

Lecture 6 – Levinas and Derrida: the face to face encounter and unconditional hospitality.

Readings:

1. Levinas, Emmanuel. 1961. "Exteriority and the face." In *Totality and infinity*, 187-253. Duquesne.
2. Derrida, Jacques. 1999. "Hospitality, justice and responsibility: A Dialogue with Jacques Derrida." In *Questioning ethics: contemporary debates in philosophy*, ed. R. Kearney, M. Dooley, 65-83. Routledge.
3. Derrida, Jacques. 2005. "Hostipitality". *Angelaki*, 5, no. 3: 3-18.
4. La Caze, Marguerite. 2007. "At the intersection: Kant, Derrida, and the relation between ethics and politics". *Political Theory*, 35, no.6: 781-805.
5. Derrida, Jacques. 1999. *Adieu to Emmanuel Levinas*. Stanford University Press. (Optional reading)

Lecture 7 – On the ethics of exclusion: can states legitimately exclude foreigners?

Readings:

1. Walzer, Michael. 1983. "Membership". In *Spheres of Justice. A defense of pluralism and equality*, 31-63. Basic Books.
2. Baker, Gideon. 2011. "Right of entry or right of refusal? Hospitality in the law of nature and nations." *Review of International Studies* 37, 3: 1423-1445.
3. Blake, Michael. 2013. "Immigration, jurisdiction, and exclusion." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 41, 2: 103-130.
4. Kates, Michael and Ryan Pevnick. 2014. "Immigration, jurisdiction, and history." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 42, 2: 179-184.
5. Jehiel, Philippe. 2001. "Constitutional rules of exclusion in jurisdiction formation". *Review of Economic Studies*, 68: 393-413.

Lecture 8 – *On the ethics of emigration: do we have a right to emigrate?*

Readings:

1. Carens, Joseph H. 1987. "Aliens and citizens: the case for open borders". *Review of Politics*, 49, no. 2: 251-273.
2. Seglow, J. 2005. "The ethics of immigration". *Political Studies Review*, 3: 317-334.
3. Huemer, Michael. 2010. "Is there a right to immigrate?" *Social Theory and Practice* 36, no. 3: 429-461.
4. Van der Vossen. 2015. "Immigration and self-determination". *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics*, 14, no.3: 270-290.

Lecture 9 – *Different approaches to the Syrian refugee crisis: the E.U., and the U.S.*

Readings:

1. Benhabib, Seyla. 2004. "Transformations of citizenship: the European Union". In *The Rights of Others*, 129-170. Cambridge University Press.
2. Friese, Heidrun. 2010. "The limits of hospitality: political philosophy, undocumented migration and the local arena". *European Journal of Social Theory*, 13, no. 3: 323-341.
3. Alvarez, Priscilla. 2016. "What should the U.S. do about refugee resettlement". *The Atlantic*.
4. Attia, Guillaume A. W. Ed. 2016. "And who is my neighbor?" *The critique*.
5. "U.S. vs European security differences". 2017. C-span panel on the refugee crisis. Available at: <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?6621>.

Lecture 10 – *Conclusion, Liberalism and the limits of cosmopolitan ethics.*

Readings:

1. Nagel, Thomas. 2005. "The problem of global justice." *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 33, 2: 113-47.
2. Baker, Gideon. 2009. "Cosmopolitanism as hospitality: revisiting identity and difference in Cosmopolitanism". *Alternatives*, 34: 107-128.
3. Freiman Christopher and Javier Hidalgo. 2016. "Liberalism or immigration restrictions, but not both." *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 10, no. 2: 2-22.
4. Young, Iris Marion. 2011. "City life and difference." In *Justice and the politics of difference*, 226-256. Princeton University Press.
5. Benhabib, Seyla. 2004. "Democratic iterations: the local, the national, and the global". In *The Rights of Others*, 171-212. Cambridge University Press.