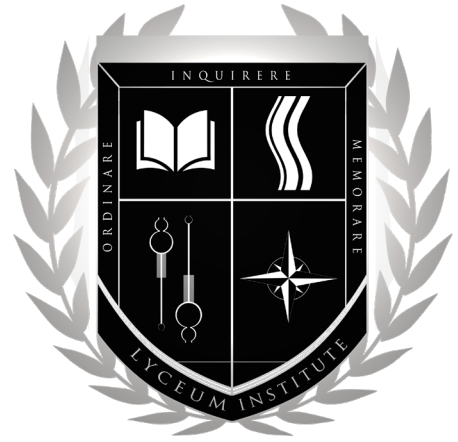


POLITICS: THE PROPOSAL FOR A POSTLIBERAL ORDER

SEMINAR SYLLABUS

[SUMMER 2025]



DESCRIPTION

Throughout this course, we shall analyze the critiques against liberalism in the present day and subsequent proposals for a post-liberal order from three of the most notable representatives of post-liberalism in America: D.C. Schindler, Patrick Deneen, and Adrian Vermeule. We shall focus on their most recent works dealing with this subject to understand where the debate would fall today in its most current state. These thinkers level against liberalism as a governing ideology, examining its perceived shortcomings in fostering human flourishing, communal solidarity, and moral coherence. Adrian Vermeule's arguments for a renewed emphasis on common good constitutionalism will be juxtaposed with Patrick Deneen's critique of liberalism as an unsustainable political project rooted in individualism and technocratic governance. D.C. Schindler's philosophical approach will further broaden our inquiry, particularly his exploration of the metaphysical underpinnings of liberalism and his call for a return to a more integrative understanding of human and societal development.



METHOD

The seminar is 8 weeks long, with one recorded lecture and one discussion session each week. Each discussion session is structured around a reading from one of the authors mentioned prior with the intent to explore the entire work. We will limit our focus to one work at a time taken in parts, and spend 2-3 weeks on each. Participants are expected to have read the assigned reading and listened to the lecture prior to the session, so that they may engage in a semi-structured discussion directed and moderated by the instructor.

READING

The main works to be used will be D.C. Schindler's *The Politics of the Real* (ISBN: 978-1736506608 | [Amazon](#)), Patrick Deneen's *Regime Change* (ISBN: 978-0593086902 | [Amazon](#)) and Adrian Vermeule's *Common Good Constitutionalism* (ISBN: 978-1509548873 | [Amazon](#)). Assistance may be provided if you are having difficulty purchasing these texts.

LECTURE

Each week there will also be a 20-40+ minute audio lecture, posted to Teams at the beginning of the week. This lecture will be based upon the assigned reading, but will also stray into related topics, or may use the reading as a launching point for addressing some related issue (perhaps one more general, or perhaps one more specific). The primary (but not sole) purpose of these lectures is to help clarify some of the more difficult concepts and

arguments contained within the reading, as well as to raise specific questions that should help structure and guide our discussion sessions.

There *may* be accompanying visual aids (not necessarily) in order to provide some clarity as to textual points, but one *should* be able, in most cases, to simply listen to the lecture (and perhaps consult the visual aids later). This should allow more flexibility: making the lectures suitable accompaniment for a commute, while doing chores, going for a run, etc.

DISCUSSION

The heart of the seminar is the discussion session (**Saturdays at 11:15 am to 12:30 pm ET**): where all the thoughts emergent and encountered throughout the week—via the reading, lecture, and on-going conversations in the Teams channel—are brought into explicit conversation. This allows us to attempt a concerted effort at bringing resolution to our difficulties, and—failing such a resolution—to direct our inquiry further.

Each discussion session will begin with a brief synopsis of the week's material and a focusing on whichever aspects of that material seem most pressing. Beyond the direction provided by the instructor, participants are encouraged to bring their own concerns explicitly into view and to engage with the instructor and one another in civil debate and collective inquiry.

AUDITS OR COMPLETES

All Lyceum Institute seminar participants will be able to either *audit* the seminar or *complete* the seminar. To complete the seminar, the participant **must** submit an essay of 2000-5000 words pertaining to the subject. This essay may be evaluated for publication in *Reality* and will be included in each Lyceum Institute member's profile, along with the mark of auditing or completing.

SESSION SCHEDULE

June 7	Introduction Lecture: The Critique Against Liberalism Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D.C. Schindler, <i>The Politics of the Real</i>, Part 1.
June 14	Reorienting Things Lecture: Liberal Rights and Liberal Freedom Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D.C. Schindler, <i>The Politics of the Real</i>, Part 2.
June 21	A Truly Catholic Politics Lecture: Authority and Prudence Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• D.C. Schindler, <i>The Politics of the Real</i>, Part 3.
June 28	Our Cold Civil War Lecture: The End of Liberalism Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrick Deneen, <i>Regime Change</i>, Part 1.

July 5	BREAK
July 12	<p>Common-Good Conservatism</p> <p>Lecture: The Common Good and the Constitution</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Deneen, <i>Regime Change</i>, Part 2.
July 19	<p>What Is to Be Done?</p> <p>Lecture: A Possible Post-Liberal Future</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Deneen, <i>Regime Change</i>, Part 3.
July 26	<p>The Classical Legal Tradition</p> <p>Lecture: The Common Good in the Courts</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Vermeule, <i>Common Good Constitutionalism</i>, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2.
August 2	<p>Originalism and Progressivism in the Courts</p> <p>Lecture: An Analysis of the Current Legal State</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Vermeule, <i>Common Good Constitutionalism</i>, Introduction, Chapters 3, 4 & 5, Conclusion.