“Liberty, Equality, Fraternity” was the motto of the French and Haitian Revolutions and the slogan was officially endorsed by the French state during the Third Republic. The discipline of political theory, however, has focused on liberty and equality while largely ignoring fraternity. The intellectuals of the Third Republic translated the ideal of fraternity into the language of solidarity and placed it at the center of their political ideology. Solidarity could be understood as a way to manage the tension between quality and freedom. This course focuses on three related concepts: solidarity, social justice, and social theory. The readings build on the critique of ideal theory and explore the ways that social theory helps us think about politics in distinctive and useful ways. We will read books and articles that focus on the concept of solidarity as well texts that take a social theoretic approach to justice.

Books that I have ordered at the University of Toronto bookstore:

- Avery Kolers, *A Moral Theory of Solidarity*
- Andrew Mason, *Community, Solidarity and Belonging*

Additional book to be purchased:

- Sally Scholz, *Political Solidarity* (Penn State Press, 2008)

Course Requirements: This is a research seminar. All students are asked to complete a major paper. In addition, all participants must complete 5 short response papers.

Response papers (25%). If the reading is very challenging, you may summarize and explain the text, but usually you should pose some critical questions and challenges.

- Length: 1-2 pages, around 600 words
- Submission: On Blackboard by 11 pm on Monday night

Participation: (15%): This course is based on a seminar format therefore all students are expected to actively listen and to contribute to class discussions. The best way to prepare for class is to read the assigned material carefully and to take notes. There may also be opportunities to give short presentations in class or to lead the discussion. Attendance is very important. If you miss class or want to supplement
your contribution to class discussion, you may submit an extra response paper. This must be submitted BEFORE the next week’s class.

**Research Paper (50%); Proposal (5%) and Presentation (5%):**

- Length (12 pages for undergraduates, 15-20 pages for graduate students)
- Deadline: Proposal March 7; Paper, April 5
- Presentations will take place during the last two weeks of class

Schedule of Readings: This is a new class that is related to my current research. As my own knowledge of the material grows, I may make minor adjustments in the assigned readings. These will be announced in class and also updated on the syllabus on Blackboard.

**Week One (January 10): Introduction**

**Week: Two: Social Imaginaries**


Recommended: Cornelius Castoriadis, chapter 3 “The Institution and the Imaginary: A First Approach” in *The Imaginary Institution of Society* (MIT)

**Week 3: Political Solidarity**


**Week Four: A Moral Theory of Solidarity**

Avery Kolers,


- “Solidarity as Environmental Justice in Brownfields Remediation,” (manuscript, on Blackboard)

- Presentations: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8
Week Five: Stages of solidarity


Jurgen Habermas,
“Democracy, Solidarity and the European Crisis” in *Roadmap to a Social Europe* (2013)


Week 6: Social property


Week 7: Community

Andrew Mason, *Community, Solidarity and Belonging* (Cambridge University Press 2000): Chapters 1 and 2 (everyone)

Presentations: Chapters 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Week 8: Nationalism, Cosmopolitanism, and Solidarity


Week 9: Care Ethics

Week 10: Sites of Solidarity: Education, Public Space, Religion


Week 11: Transnational Solidarity


Presentations

Week 12: Presentations continued

Plagiarism: Any case of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Academic Integrity. More information about plagiarism can be found at [http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize). Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Blackboard: Please check Blackboard regularly for updates to the syllabus, announcements, etc. To access a Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at [http://portal.utoronto.ca](http://portal.utoronto.ca) and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you’ll find the link to the POL 485/2027 course website (please look for the combined grad /undergraduate course number).

Policy on the use of electronic devices: Please do not use your laptop to access the web. A successful seminar requires that all participants actively listen to each other’s contributions without distractions. Laptops may be used during the lecture part of class to take notes or to look for textual evidence in the assigned readings.