



POLITICAL THEORY INSTITUTE

SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Fall 2014 Lecture Series

September 30, 2014: "Philosophy and Secrecy: On the Forgotten Practice of Esoteric Writing"

Dr. Arthur Melzer, Michigan State University

5:30 PM, Hughes Formal Lounge

Arthur Melzer is Professor of Political Science at Michigan State University. He is also the co-founder and co-director of the Symposium on Science, Reason, and Modern Democracy, an independent research center housed at Michigan State University. Professor Melzer received his BA from Cornell University and his PhD from Harvard University. He has been awarded research fellowships by the Mellon Foundation, the Institute for Educational Affairs, the Earhart Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is a winner of the MSU Social Science Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award. His writings include: *The Natural Goodness of Man: On the System of Rousseau's Thought* (University of Chicago Press, 1990), and most recently *Philosophy Between the Lines: The Lost History of Esoteric Writing* (University of Chicago Press, 2014).



November 6, 2014: "Human Ends and the End of Humanity"

Dr. Charles Rubin, Duquesne University

5:30 PM, Mary Graydon Center 203-205

Charles Rubin has taught in the Political Science Department and the Graduate Center for Social and Public Policy at Duquesne University since 1987. He is also the current Garwood Visiting Professor and Visiting Fellow, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University and previously held a visiting appointment at Kenyon College. Rubin earned his BA in Political Science and Philosophy from Case-Western Reserve University and his PhD in Political Philosophy from Boston College. He is the editor of *Conservation Reconsidered: Nature, Virtue and American Liberal Democracy* (2000) and *The Quest for Justice* (with Leslie Rubin, 3rd edition, 1992).



He is the author of over twenty-five articles, chapters, and essays, as well as two books: *The Green Crusade: Rethinking the Roots of Environmentalism* (1998) and *Eclipse of Man: Human Extinction and the Meaning of Progress* (2014).

November 19, 2014: "Why Not Capitalism?"

Dr. Jason Brennan, Georgetown University

5:30 PM, Kay Spiritual Life Center Lounge

Jason Brennan is an Assistant Professor of Strategy, Economics, Ethics, and Public Policy at Georgetown University and previously an Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Research at Brown University. He earned his BA in Philosophy from the University of New Hampshire and his PhD from the University of Arizona. His research focuses on democratic theory, the ethics of voting, competence and power, freedom, and the moral foundations of commercial society. He is the author of *A Brief History of Liberty* (2010, with David Schmidtz), *The Ethics of Voting* (2011), *Libertarianism: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2012), *Compulsory Voting: For and Against* (2014, with Lisa Hill), and *Why Not Capitalism?* (2014).



December 5, 2014: "Wealth, Birth, and Beauty in the Writings of John Adams"

Dr. Luke Mayville, American University

5:30 PM, Mary Graydon Center 203-205

Luke Mayville is the 2014-2015 Postdoctoral Fellow at the Political Theory Institute at American University. He holds a Phd from Yale University and a BA summa cum laude from the University of Oregon. His dissertation, entitled "The Oligarchic Mind: Wealth and Power in the Political Thought of John Adams," draws upon John Adams's treatises, essays, and letters to uncover an unfamiliar theory of the political power of wealth. His article, "Fear of the Few: John Adams and the Power Elite," is forthcoming in *Polity*. He is teaching "American Political Thought" in Fall 2014 and will teach a seminar entitled "Democracy and Inequality" in Spring 2015.

