

## Varieties of Freedom\*

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We are not free to cease being free.

*Being and Nothingness*  
— JEAN PAUL SARTRE

Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose.

“Me and Bobby McGee”  
— JANIS JOPLIN

### Abstract

It should not be surprising that humans, as individually self-aware members of an ultrasocial species, are deeply conflicted by the concept of freedom. Being free means different things to different people; moreover, people often disagree about how much freedom can, or should, be had by their conspecifics, or even by themselves. In this advanced seminar, we shall discuss some of the questions that arise with regard to freedom, sampling from a range of disciplines, including evolution, history, anthropology, politics, philosophy, psychology, and education.

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\*Version 0, October 30, 2020. This is a provisional reading list; comments and suggestions are welcome!

# 1 Key themes and readings

A partial and provisional list of themes, in no particular order.

## Preliminaries

1. Frankfurt, H. G. (1971). Freedom of the will and the concept of a person. *The Journal of Philosophy*, 68(1), 5–20.
2. Edelman, S. (2008). *Computing the mind: how the mind really works*. Oxford University Press, New York, NY, section 10.1: Selfhood and Freedom.
3. Bidney, D. (1963). Varieties of freedom. In D. Bidney, editor, *The Concept of Freedom in Anthropology*, Studies in General Anthropology, 1, pages 11–34. De Gruyter Mouton, The Hague.
4. McBride, W. L. (1990). “Two Concepts of Liberty” thirty years later: A Sartre-inspired critique. *Social Theory and Practice*, 16(3), 297–322.

## Evolution

1. Voland, E. (2007). We recognize ourselves as being similar to others: implications of the “social brain hypothesis” for the biological evolution of the intuition of freedom. *Evolutionary Psychology*, 5(3), 442–452.
2. Gowdy, J. and Krall, L. (2016). The economic origins of ultrasociality. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 39, e92.
3. Conway, L. G., Bongard, K., Plaut, V., Gornick, L. J., Dodds, D. P., Giresi, T., Tweed, R. G., Repke, M. A., and Houck, S. C. (2017). Ecological origins of freedom: pathogens, heat stress, and frontier topography predict more vertical but less horizontal governmental restriction. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 43(10), 1378–1398.
4. Anker, E. (2014). Freedom and the human in “evolutionary” political theory. *Political Research Quarterly*, 67(2), 453–456.

## History and geography

1. de Dijn, A. (2020). *Freedom: An Unruly History*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
2. Glymph, T. (2016). “Invisible disabilities”: Black women in war and in freedom. *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society*, 160(3), 237–246.
3. Scott, J. C. (2009). *The Art of Not Being Governed*. Yale University Press, New Haven, CT.
4. Ferretti, F. (2017). Evolution and revolution: Anarchist geographies, modernity and poststructuralism. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 35(5), 893–912.

## Anthropology

1. Lee, D. (1963). Freedom and social constraint. In D. Bidney, editor, *The Concept of Freedom in Anthropology*, Studies in General Anthropology, 1, pages 61–73. De Gruyter Mouton, The Hague.

2. von Mering, O. (1963). Varieties of freedom. In D. Bidney, editor, *The Concept of Freedom in Anthropology*, Studies in General Anthropology, 1, pages 106–130. De Gruyter Mouton, The Hague.
3. Bonilla-Silva, E. (2019). “Racists,” “class anxieties,” hegemonic racism, and democracy in Trump’s America. *Social Currents*, 6, 14–31.
4. Oyeshile, O. A. (2007). Resolving the tension between corporate existence and the individual’s freedom in African communal society: the Yoruba example. *Ultimate Reality and Meaning*, 30(4), 278–300.
5. Lino e Silva, M. V. d. (2012). *Metafreedom : the carnivalesque of freedom in a Brazilian favela*. Ph.D. thesis, Department of Social Anthropology, School of Philosophy, Anthropology and Film Studies, University of St Andrews.
6. Edelman, M. (2019). Hollowed out heartland, USA: How capital sacrificed communities and paved the way for authoritarian populism. *Journal of Rural Studies*. In press.

## Politics

1. Skinner, B. F. (1971). *Beyond Freedom and Dignity*. Knopf, New York, NY.
2. Reichert, W. O. (1969). Anarchism, freedom, and power. *Ethics*, 79(2), 139–149.
3. Ci, J. (1999). Justice, freedom, and the moral bounds of capitalism. *Social Theory and Practice*, 25(3), 409–438.
4. Adorno, T. and Horkheimer, M. (2010). Towards a new manifesto? *New Left Review*, 65, 33–61. Translated by Rodney Livingstone.
5. Horkheimer, M. (1966). On the concept of freedom. *Diogenes*, 14(53), 73–81. Translated by Victor A. Velen.
6. Kayange, G. M. (2020). Capitalism and freedom in African communitarianism. In *Capitalism and Freedom in African Political Philosophy*, chapter 3, pages 45–72. Springer, Cham, Switzerland.

## Philosophy

1. Grumley, J. (1998). Revolting liberties: Revolution and freedom in Arendt and Foucault. *The European Legacy*, 3(1), 53–71.
2. Wu, G. (2006). On the idea of freedom and its rejection in Chinese thought and institutions. *Asian Philosophy*, 16(3), 219–235.
3. Okaneme, G. (2013). A philosophical evaluation of the concept of African freedom. *Open Journal of Philosophy*, 3(1A), 161–167.
4. Li, C. (2014). The Confucian conception of freedom. *Philosophy East and West*, 64(4), 902–919. Special issue: Tenth East-West philosophers’ conference, “Value and Values: Economics and Justice in an Age of Global Interdependence”.
5. Kanu, I. A. (2017). Igwebuikwe as a hermeneutic of personal autonomy in African ontology. *Journal of African Traditional Religion and Philosophy (JATREP)*, 1(2), 11–19.
6. Lau, S. and Walter, S. (2020). The representation of freedom in decisions: Good outcomes or real choice? *Philosophical Psychology*, 33(4), 592–623.

## **Psychology**

1. Schwartz, B. (2000). Self-determination: the tyranny of freedom. *American Psychologist*, 55(1), 79–88.
2. Brymer, E. and Schweitzer, R. (2013). The search for freedom in extreme sports: A phenomenological exploration. *Psychology of Sport and Exercise*, 14, 865–873.
3. Westcott, M. R. (1982). Quantitative and qualitative aspects of experienced freedom. *The Journal of Mind and Behavior*, 3(2), 99–126.
4. Westcott, M. R. (1994). Freedom and civilization: When more is less. *Canadian Psychology / Psychologie Canadienne*, 35(2), 159–166.

## **Education**

1. Howard, T. C. (2016). Why Black lives (and minds) matter: race, freedom schools & the quest for educational equity. *The Journal of Negro Education*, 85(2), 101–113. The 36th Annual Charles H. Thompson Lecture.
2. Becker, A. (2015). The (im)possibilities of teaching–learning freedom. *South African Journal of Higher Education*, 29(5), 70–84.

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- Adorno, T. and Horkheimer, M. (2010). Towards a new manifesto? *New Left Review*, 65, 33–61. Translated by Rodney Livingstone.
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