

Department of Politics and International Relations
Political Theory Core Lectures
Hilary Term 2003

AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATION I

- I. Analysis of Authority
 - authority x gives y a reason to act in a certain way
 - recognition of x's authority is (part of) y's reasoning
 - authority entails
 - recognition
 - reciprocity
 - reflexivity

- II Power
 - power x compels y to act in a certain way...
 - ... whether or not y recognises x y will act in that way

- III Authority and Power
 - authority as legitimate power
 - authority distinct from power

- IV Origins of Authority
 - tradition
 - charisma
 - rationality

- V Authority from the point of view of Freedom and Equality
 - Can a situation of equal freedom generate an authority structure?
 - social contract
 - libertarianism
 - rationality
 - consequentialism

 - Can there be authority without Power?

- VI Authority from the point of view of Political Power
 - Can a situation of power and coercion generate an authority structure?
 - socialism and libertarianism – “NO”
 - conservatism and liberalism – “um, maybe...”
 - politics –
 - power in circulation
 - office
 - constant opposition
 - authority not finally settled

References

Hannah Arendt *Between Past and Future*

David Beetham *The Legitimation of Power*

The Foucault Effect: studies in Governmentality eds G Burchell, C Gordon and P Miller