

PSCI 1001B
Great Political Questions: Power and Resistance
Lecture: Thursdays 11:35 – 1:25 ; Location: AT101

Instructor:	Professor William Walters	Email:	wwalters@ccs.carleton.ca
Office:	C673 Loeb	Office Hours:	M 11.30-12.30 ; Th 14.00 – 16.00
Telephone:	520 2600 ex. 2790		

COURSE AIMS

What is power and what has it got to do with politics? Is all politics about power, or just certain kinds of politics? Where do we find power? Does the state exercise power? Do the media and business wield power? Can we, should we resist power, and if so, how? Can individuals and groups possess power? What if power has a history? What would it look like? Or a geography? Perhaps we could speak not of power in general but of particular forms of power as well as resistance, and how it is that certain forms come into existence in certain places, at certain times always under particular conditions.

This course will take up these and other questions about power. We will study power through the lens of certain key thinkers, past and present, paying special attention to what they understand by power, and the circumstances under which they confronted questions of power. Amongst the themes of the course are capitalism and power, colonialism and power, media and ideology, globalization, neoliberalism, and new forms of resistance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Mid-term exam** (90 min – in class) *Feb. 14* (20%)
- 2 Tutorial participation** (10%)
- 3 Term paper** (due in lecture *April 3*. Required length: 2500 words, not including bibliography (30%)
 - Your paper should use at least 10 relevant scholarly sources (e.g., from reputable scholarly journals).
 - Your essay will offer a critical assessment of one of the thinkers and/or themes of the course. For example, you might address the question: ‘What are the limitations of Herman and Chomsky’s theory of the media?’ Your essay will need to uncover additional sources to those included on the reading list.
- 3 Final exam** (150 mins - during exam period, April 11-29) (40%). Further departmental and university requirements are listed on the last page of this handout.
- 4 Films** – one or more films/documentaries will be shown in most weeks. Please note: exam questions will test your understanding of course readings, lectures *and* films and documentaries shown in class.
- 5 Late penalties**: 1st to 6th day after the deadline = half grade deduction ; 7th to 13th = full grade. Etc.

COURSE MATERIAL

All required readings are either contained in the coursepack (available from the bookshop) or available on-line. Most required readings are also on reserve in the library.

LECTURES AND THEMES

1. Introduction (Jan. 10)

1. Karl Marx: Capitalism and Class Struggle (Jan. 17)

Selections from Marx, in Anthony Giddens and David Held (eds) *Classes, Power, and Conflict*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982, pp.19-28.

Janine Brodie, 'Politics, Power and Political Science' in Janine Brodie (ed.) *Critical Concepts: An Introduction to Politics* (second edition), Toronto: Prentice Hall, 2002, pp.2-22. (This article is also relevant to the session on Dahl and pluralism).

2. Robert Dahl: Polyarchy and Pluralism (Jan. 24)

Robert Dahl, *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961, pp.1-9; 85-6, 305-310.

3. George Orwell and Totalitarianism (Jan. 31)

Selection from "Nineteen Eighty-Four" in Orwell, *The Orwell Reader*, New York: Harcourt, Brace and World, pp.396-419.

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil*, New York: Penguin, pp. 171-175; 230-233.

Film: *George Orwell's 1984* (2001)

4. Frantz Fanon: Colonial Power, Anti-Colonial Struggles (Feb. 7)

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, New York: Grove Press, 1963, pp.35-46; 70-74.

M.K. Gandhi, *The Moral and Political Writings of Mahatma Gandhi* (ed., R. Iyer), New York: Oxford UP, 1986, pp.28-39.

Mike Davis, "The Poor Man's Air Force: A History of the Car Bomb", *Znet* April 12, 2006.

http://www.zmag.org/content/print_article.cfm?itemID=10079§ionID=1

Film: *Black Skin, White Mask: Frantz Fanon* (1995)

5. Mid-Term Exam (90 mins in class) (Feb. 14)

6. Winter Break (Feb. 18 - 22)

7. Michel Foucault: Microphysics of Power (Feb. 28)

Michel Foucault, 'The Means of Correct Training' and 'Panopticism' in Paul Rabinow (ed.) *The Foucault Reader*, New York: Pantheon, 1984, pp.188-213.

Barry Smart, *Michel Foucault* (revised edition) New York: Routledge, 2002, pp.77-93

8. Marilyn Waring on Work, Gender and Economic Theory (Mar. 6)

Marilyn Waring, *If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics*. New York: Harper Collins, 1988, pp.14-45.

Film: *Who's Counting: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics* (1995)

9. Noam Chomsky: "The Media" and Thought Control in a Democratic Society (Mar. 13)

Ed Herman and Noam Chomsky, *Manufacturing Consent*, New York: Pantheon, 1988, pp.1-35.

Film: *Outfoxed* (2004)

10. Ya Basta! Subcomandante Marcos and the Zapatista Rebellion (Mar. 20)

Subcomandante Marcos, 'The Punchcard and the Hourglass' (Interview with Garcia Marquez and Roberto Pombo), *New Left Review* 9, May/June 2001, on-line at <http://www.newleftreview.net/NLR24304.shtml>

David Slater, *Geopolitics and the Post-Colonial*, Oxford: Blackwell, 2004, pp.197-222.

Film: *A Place called Chiapas* (1998)

11. Naomi Klein and No Logo: Anti-Globalization, Alternative Globalization (Mar. 27)

Naomi Klein (interviewed by Michelle Chihara) 'Naomi Klein gets Global', Altnet, September 25, 2002 at <http://www.altnet.org/story/14175>

'Why Naomi Klein needs to grow up', *The Economist* 7/11/2002,

http://www.economist.com/printedition/displayStory.cfm?Story_ID=1429429

'Pro-Logo: The Case for Brands' (Sameena Ahmed?), *The Economist*, September 6, 2001, on-line at http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/logo/prologo.html

Film: *No Logo: Brands, Globalization, Resistance* (2003)

12. Conclusion, Review, Exam Preparation & Term Paper Hand In (April 3)

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14th, 2008** for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible

after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at:
<http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.