PSCI 4809 A
HONOURS SEMINAR ON A SELECTED TOPIC IN POLITICAL SCIENCE:
Secrecy & Power

Seminar: M 11.35 – 14.25; Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office Hrs: M 10.00 - 11.30; Tu 10.00 - 11.30

Prerequisite(s): None

COURSE AIMS AND THEMES
In most overviews of key concepts in political science you will not find an entry for secrecy. It may not even appear in the index. While citizenship, sovereignty, security, race, class, gender, the state and civil society (and even governmentality!) are all accorded great attention as political analytics, not so the question of secrecy. It is perhaps an irony that a concept so seemingly enmeshed with questions of invisibility should be invisible to the discipline's canon. It is also an irony that a phenomenon that has such purchase and ignites such passions within our public culture should be rather ignored by so many scholars. Think about it: all those political scandals, all those police dramas, all those spy movies, all those detective stories.... secrecy is everywhere in the public sphere but barely present when we leaf through political science journals.

The first aim of this course is therefore to give secrecy its due, to engage it in a sustained manner. To do this the course undertakes a wide ranging survey of scholarship on the topic. While interdisciplinary in nature the readings are mostly clustered around themes of political secrecy and political power. It turns out that when we go hunting for it there is a rich and varied body of work devoted to the theme. But it is rather dispersed: the hope is that this course will present a gathering point for such work, while opening up lines of conversation across fields and thematic areas. The second aim of the course is to equip students with theories, concepts, methods and cases that they can use in designing their own research projects. While many of the readings are quite theoretical in their outlook the course also gives full attention to grounding discussions in concrete controversies, policies, and problems.

If there is a theme linking many of the weeks it is that secrecy needs to be rethought. We have a classical image of secrecy as hiding things, or removing knowledge from publics. Attached to this view is the belief that the discovery and revelation of secrets can liberate people and improve societies. What is emerging in recent scholarships is a challenge to this rather worn view of secrecy, a view Vermeir (2012) calls 'privation'. Instead, we are beginning to see secrecy as 'positive' - not necessarily in the normative sense but positive in the sense that someone like Foucault might understand the term. Secrecy is positive inasmuch as it requires that new things be created and brought into the world. It entails production, whether the production of things like classification systems, the production of particular persona like spies, or the production of certain truths, which is what acts of revelation seem to do. The course will pay special attention to these and related new views of secrecy.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Seminar Attendance and Participation (10%). Students are expected to attend all classes, do the required readings, and participate in class discussions.

2. Group presentations (10%). Students will be arranged into groups of three at the first meeting of the class. Each group will make one presentation to the class reflecting on ALL the readings for that week. You should avoid as far as possible an author by author summary and concentrate instead on connections, contrasts and themes in the readings. You are strongly encouraged to use the format: "What we learned about secrecy this week". These presentations will be 15 minutes long and rigorously timed! You are encouraged to use visual material and bring examples, illustrations and cases into your presentations.

3. Essay 1 (25%): Survey paper. Write a survey paper based on one week’s theme (from week 2, 3 or 4). You should add two more relevant readings to the mix. Your paper should be submitted as a Word file to my Carleton email address. Please use the filename format: 4809_Yourfamilyname_Essay1. Put the same name in the subject line of the email. Word length: 1500 words (including footnotes). Bibliography does not count towards the word length. Deadline: Sunday 16th October at 11.59pm.

4. Miniconference Presentation (10%). Students will give short presentations (10 mins) of their work in progress in meetings 13 and 14. You will be organized into panels of three of four presenters linked by a common theme. These presentations will build towards the final research paper. You are encouraged to use visual material in your presentation.

5. Essay 2: Research Paper (45%). Word length: 3000 words (not including bibliography). Essay 2 will develop your miniconference presentation. It is a chance for you to put theories, themes and concepts from the course to work in a particular empirical field or problem. For example, a paper that examines the nature of a particular secret society. Word length: 3000 words (not including bibliography). Deadline: Friday 9th December at 11.59pm. Please use the filename format: 4850_Yourfamilyname_Essay2. Put the same name in the subject line of the email.

Late penalties: you will lose half a grade if your paper is handed in the day following the deadline, another half on the second day, and so on.
COURSE TEXTS
There is no text book. All required readings are either accessible in the journals held in the library or, if indicated as (*), via ARES.

COURSE WEBSITE
CuLearn will be used for the course.

THEMES AND READINGS

1. Introduction (Sept 12)

PART 1. PERSPECTIVES ON SECRECY AND POWER

2. Secrecy in Social and Political Theory (Sept 19)

3. Secrecy, Security, Surveillance (Sept 26)

4. Secrecy and Democracy (Oct 3)

5. Thanksgiving (Oct 10)

6. Technoscience and Secrecy (Oct 17)
7. Reading Week (Oct 24)

8. Secrecy, Space, In/visibility (Oct 31)


9. Secrecy, Transparency, Accountability (Nov. 7)


PART II: CASES


11. Inquiry: The 9/11 Commission (Nov 21)


12. Whistleblower (?): Snowden (Nov 28)


PART III: MINICONFERENCES

13. Miniconference I (Dec 5)

14. Miniconference II (Dec 9 - Note: this is a Friday!)

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:
In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (p 39), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

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\begin{align*}
A+ &= 90-100 \\
A &= 85-89 \\
A- &= 80-84 \\
B+ &= 77-79 \\
B &= 73-76 \\
B- &= 70-72 \\
C+ &= 67-69 \\
C &= 63-66 \\
C- &= 60-62 \\
D+ &= 57-59 \\
D &= 53-56 \\
D- &= 50-52 \\
F &= \text{Below 50} \\
\text{WDN} &= \text{Withdrawn from the course} \\
\text{ABS} &= \text{Student absent from final exam} \\
\text{DEF} &= \text{Deferred (See above)} \\
\text{FND} &= (\text{Failed, no Deferred}) = \text{Student could not pass the course even with 100\% on final exam}
\end{align*}
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Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.
University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website, here: http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/

Requests for Academic Accommodations

*For Students with Disabilities:*
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary *letters of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test.
This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements.
- The deadlines for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the December 2015 exam period is November 6, 2015 and for the April 2016 exam period is March 6, 2016.

For Religious Obligations:
Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors 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 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.
Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her 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
Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures?
All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs.
The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism.

The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

**Plagiarism and cheating at the graduate level are viewed as being particularly serious and the sanctions imposed are accordingly severe.**

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See http://www2.carleton.ca/sasc/advisingcentre/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Plagiarism and cheating – presenting another’s ideas, arguments, words or images as your own, using unauthorized material, misrepresentation, fabricating or misrepresenting research data, unauthorized co-operation or collaboration or completing work for another student – weaken the quality of the graduate degree. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; or a grade of Failure in the course.

**Assistance for Students:**
Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc
Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/peer-assisted-study-sessions

**Important Information:**
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
- All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
- Please note that you will be able to link your CMAIL (MyCarleton) account to other non-CMAILaccounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid CMAIL address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://portal.carleton.ca/