

Carleton University
Department of Political Science
Political Science 5915A

Politics, Law, Territory **Tuesday & Thursday 9:35-12:25**

Summer 2013

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office hours: Wednesday 11am-1pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar we will explore how a range of social scientists and humanities scholars have conceptualized the law as at once political and territorial. We will concentrate our efforts on recent scholarship on the relationship between law and violence, or what is sometimes called “the force of law without law”. We will read work from Giorgio Agamben, Judith Butler, Michel Foucault, Elizabeth Povinelli, and Carl Schmitt, among others. Our task will be to consider what impact recent theorizations of “states of exception”, “biopolitics”, and “abandonment” have had on the study of law and violence.

Students new to Agamben, Foucault, and Schmitt, as well as those more acquainted with this work, should feel equally welcome to participate in the seminar.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular seminar participation and attendance: 25%.
2. Seminar presentation: 25%. You will be responsible for leading discussion during one seminar, along with at least one of your peers. Your goal is to highlight and discuss key arguments from the assigned texts, and which you consider worthy of extended group attention.
3. 3,500 word review essay: 50%. Your essay can be on a topic of your choice, but should draw in detail on at least two major texts from the seminar. We will discuss the review essay in greater detail during the seminar.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

There is a lot of reading for this course. We will talk about how to read efficiently during the first class, so don't fret.

My baseline expectation is that seminar participants will come every week having read the assigned readings in their entirety. I also expect seminar participants to **come prepared with something substantive to say about the week's readings.**

Attendance for all seminars is required. **If you miss a seminar, you must complete an essay (minimum 5 pages, double spaced) on the readings for that day. The essay should not be a summary; it should raise substantive issues. Essays for missed classes will be due the following week, at the beginning of seminar. If you do not turn in your essay, I will automatically take 10% off your final grade.** If there is some issue in your life that is making attendance (and active participation) difficult, please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can make alternate arrangements.

Lastly, please participate actively in seminar. This will be a fun and rewarding seminar if everyone pitches in.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

I will provide electronic copies of all the articles listed below, from the Carleton library. I also will be able to provide some of the book sections. However, I do strongly recommend purchasing the following texts:

- Foucault, M. (1979). The History of Sexuality: An Introduction. New York, Vintage Books.
- Foucault, M. (2003). Society Must be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France 1975-1976. New York, Picador.
- Foucault, M. (2007). Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France 1977-78. New York, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Sheth, F. A. (2009). Toward a Political Philosophy of Race. Albany, SUNY Press.
- Schmitt, C. (2003 [1950]). The Nomos of the Earth. New York, Telos Press.
- Agamben, G. (1998). Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life. Stanford, Stanford University Press.
- Agamben, G. (2005). The State of Exception. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
- Butler, J. (2004). Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence. London, Verso.
- Povinelli, E. A. (2011). Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism. Durham, Duke University Press.

If you have financial constraints, please come and see me.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*** Presentations start week 2**

Week 1

Seminar 1 (May 7) Introductory remarks

No assigned reading

Seminar 2 (May 9) Politics, territory, law

Delaney, D. (1993). "Geographies of Judgment: The Doctrine of Changed Conditions and the Geopolitics of Race." Annals of the Association of American Geographers **83**(1): 48-65.

de Sousa Santos, B. (1987). "Law: A Map of Misreading, Toward a Postmodern Conception of Law." Journal of Law and Society **14**(3): 279-302.

Sarat, A., L. Douglas, et al. (2003). Where (or What) Is the Place of Law? An Introduction. The Place of Law. A. Sarat, L. Douglas and M. Umphrey. Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press: 1-20.

Week 2

Seminar 3 (May 14) Confession

Foucault, M. (1979). The History of Sexuality: An Introduction. New York, Vintage Books.

Foucault, M. (1980). The Confession of the Flesh. Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977. C. Gordon. New York, Pantheon.

Seminar 4 (May 16) State racism

Foucault, M. (2003). Society Must be Defended: Lectures at the Collège de France 1975-1976. New York, Picador.

Week 3

Seminar 5 (May 21) Security

Foucault, M. (2007). Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France 1977-78. New York, Palgrave Macmillan.

Seminar 6 (May 23) Race and law

Sheth, F. A. (2009). Toward a Political Philosophy of Race. Albany, SUNY Press.

Week 4

Seminar 7 (May 28) Race, class and incarceration

Wacquant, L. (2010) Deadly Symbiosis: Race and the Rise of the Penal State. Cambridge: Polity Press.

Seminar 8 (May 30) Friend/enemy

Schmitt, C. (1976 [1932]). The Concept of the Political. New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press.

Schmitt, C. (1993 [1929]). "The Age of Neutralizations and Depoliticizations." Telos(96): 130-143.

Week 5

Seminar 9 (June 4) Law and war

Schmitt, C. (2003 [1950]). The Nomos of the Earth. New York, Telos Press.

Seminar 10 (June 6) Bare life

Agamben, G. (1998). Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life. Stanford, Stanford University Press.

Week 6

Seminar 11 (June 11) Force of law

Agamben, G. (2005). The State of Exception. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.

Seminar 12 (June 13) Precarity

Butler, J. (2004). Precarious Life: The Powers of Mourning and Violence. London, Verso.

Neilson, B. and N. Rossiter (2008). "Precarity as a Political Concept, or, Fordism as Exception." Theory, Culture & Society 25(7-8): 51-72.

Seminar 13 (June 18) Multiculturalism

Povinelli, E. A. (2011). Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism. Durham, Duke University Press.

Povinelli, E. A. and K. T. DiFruscia (2012). "A Conversation with Elizabeth A. Povinelli." Altérités 7(1): 88-98.

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

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.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.