

PSCI 1001B
Great Political Questions: Power and Resistance
Thursdays 15:35 – 17:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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COURSE AIMS

What do people mean when they talk about “power” and what has it got to do with politics? Where do we find power? Does the state exercise power? What about the media and corporate worlds? Do individuals and groups possess power? Can we, should we resist power and if so, how? Does power have a history and perhaps, a geography? What would these things look like? Perhaps we could speak not of power-in-general (as though power were a physical energy that could be measured in kilowatts) but of particular forms of power as well as forms of resistance and how it is that certain forms come into existence in certain places, at certain times and always under particular conditions.

This course will take up these kinds of 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 confront questions of power. Through these thinkers we will investigate power in relation to capitalism, colonialism, media and ideology, globalization, neoliberalism and new forms of resistance.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Participation in tutorials (15%)** – to engage fully with the course you will need to regularly attend the weekly tutorial sessions. Your participation grade will depend not just on regular attendance, but showing that you have done the readings and can make insightful observations about the readings, lectures and the course more generally.
- 2 Mid-term exam (20%).**
 - 90 mins in class – Feb. 12
 - A practise exam will be posted on WebCT.
- 3 Term paper proposal (10%).**
 - Due in tutorial – March 12
 - Required length: 250 words + annotated bibliography (5 sources)
 - With this exercise you will devise a plan for your term paper (see below). This will be graded and discussed with your TA. It’s a good idea to bounce some rough ideas off your TA before you start writing the proposal.

- Your proposal should include references to 5 scholarly articles or books you intend to use and a few lines on each (their relevance, significance etc).
 - A template will be posted on WebCT.
- 4 Term paper (25%)**
- Due in lecture – April 2
 - Required length: 2500 words, not including bibliography.
 - 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 utilize additional sources to those given on the reading list.
- 5 Final exam** (150 mins - during formal exam period, April 8-27th excluding April 11th) **(30%)**. Further departmental and university requirements are listed on the last page of this handout. A practice exam will be posted on WebCT.
- 6 Visuals** – a number of films and video clips will be shown in most weeks. Please note: mid-term and final exams will test your understanding of course readings, lectures *and* films, clips and documentaries shown in class.
- 7 Late penalties** - 2% of grade per day for each day after the due date (not including weekends). Exceptions and extensions will only be granted in the case of special circumstances (e.g., illness, family bereavement) and where you have appropriate documentation (e.g., doctor’s note). The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignment submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

COURSE MATERIAL

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

LECTURES AND THEMES

1. Introduction (Jan. 8)

1. Karl Marx: Capitalism and Class Struggle (Jan. 15)

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. 22)

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. 29)

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. 5)

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.

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

5. Mid-Term Exam (90 mins in class) (Feb 12)

6. Winter Break (Feb. 16 - 20)

7. Michel Foucault: Microphysics of Power (Feb. 26)

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 Value (Mar. 5)

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. 12)

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

Film: *Outfoxed* (2004)

Term Paper Proposal due in your tutorial – Mar. 12

10. Ya Basta! Subcomandante Marcos and the Zapatista Rebellion (Mar. 19)

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. 26)

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

'Why Naomi Klein needs to grow up', *The Economist* 11/9/2002, (365/8298, p.70) available at

http://web.archive.org/web/20021113145543/http://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 (April 2)

Term Paper handed in at lecture (April 2)

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. 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 assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations**, and **March 6, 2009 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 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. 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. 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.

