Carleton University  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Sociology 4160B  
War, Terrorism and State Terrorism  
Winter 2019

Instructor: Augustine Park  
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Office hours: Mondays on seminar weeks 10:20am – 11:20am  
or by appointment

Course time: Mondays, 11:35am – 2:25pm  
7 January 2019 – 8 April 2019

Course location: 515 Southam Hall

- Knowledge of the content of this syllabus is your responsibility.
- Audio- and/or video- recording of any dimension of this course, including lectures, is not permitted without special permission.
- It is your responsibility to check cuLearn regularly.
- Smartphones must be switched to 'silent’/‘do not disturb' for the duration of class. Do not respond to texts or calls during class time, except with advance permission.
- Headphones/earphones should be removed for the duration of class.
- This syllabus is subject to modification throughout the term at the discretion of the instructor. Modifications may include changes to the assigned readings or minor modifications to assignment instructions or deadlines.

Pre-Requisite(s): Fourth year standing.
Precluded Courses: None.

Course Description
This course mobilises sociological tools to interpret political violence. The course is divided into four units: In the first unit, we analyse how large social forces, such as modernity or nationalism, shape mass violence, in particular violence on a massive scale perpetrated by state actors. In the second unit, we examine colonialism as governance through violence and corresponding resistant action, including violent resistance. In unit three, we consider competing interpretations of the phenomenon of ‘terrorism’, how terrorism is constructed and represented and how the idea of terrorism becomes instrumental in state violence. Finally, we turn our attention to modalities of state terrorism, specifically disappearance and torture, to interpret the lived experience of victims/survivors and communities, and to understand the political labour of such acts of violence.
Course Learning Outcomes

The academic outcomes of this course are:

- To explain political violence in relation to large social forces;
- To describe colonialism as a social, political and economic form;
- To analyse state violence and violent resistance by non-state actors; and,
- To critically assess discourses relating to terrorism.

The skills outcomes of this course are:

- To refine research skills through: (a) executing an independent research project from conception (research question) to a final product (term paper), (b) identifying and locating sources; (c) developing information literacy and assessing the reliability of sources, and (d) interpreting and synthesising research findings;
- To hone oral communication skills through: (a) practicing public speaking in small or large groups, (b) debating a vexing issue, and (c) presenting, in synopsis, preliminary research;
- To improve written communication skills through: (a) developing evidence-based arguments, and (b) refining written analyses of problems; and,
- To master analytic reading skills through: (a) developing probing questions in response to texts, (b) writing a position in a debate, and (c) writing an analytic research essay.

Course Readings

Required readings: All of your required readings are located through the Ares library reserves system.

Recommended readings: Please see me to discuss further readings on topics that interest you.


Course Requirements and Methods of Evaluation

Evaluation System

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- 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  = Below 50