SOCI 5806Y
RETHINKING SECRECY

Location: Richcraft 3228; Time: F 8.35 – 11.25

Instructor: Professor William Walters
Office: C673 Loeb
Contact: Email

Office Hrs: F 12.30 – 14.00
Email: william.walters@carleton.ca

Prerequisite(s): None

COURSE AIMS AND THEMES
It is often said that secrecy is power. What does that mean? This course examines power, subjectivity, and politics from the perspective of secrecy. It surveys new perspectives on secrecy which have emerged in the last decade, along with allied concerns like conspiracy, silence, invisibility and revelation. The course draws on political theory, geography, history, queer theory, sociology, anthropology and law to offer students an interdisciplinary engagement with these important themes. But the course will also be context and empirically oriented, looking to situate ideas and theories in concrete cases and social situations. Students will be encouraged to utilize theoretical tools and concepts from the course in undertaking their own case-based research projects. Finally, the course will rethink secrecy, for example, by challenging dichotomies like open vs closed, and asking instead whether some phenomena are secret and public at the same time.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. Seminar Attendance and Participation (15%). Students are expected to attend regularly, do the required readings, and participate in class discussions.

2. Critical commentary on the readings (15%). Each student will take responsibility for presenting to the class on the readings from one week. Please keep any summary of the readings to a bare minimum. Focus your presentation instead on explicating how each reading engages with the week’s theme differently, as well as any common themes; what it contributes to our understanding of secrecy; its strengths and weaknesses, etc. 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. (see below for presentation scoring rubric).

3. Miniconference Presentation (20%). Students will give short presentations (12 mins) of their work in progress in week 13. 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. (see below for presentation scoring rubric).

4. Research Paper (50%). Word length: 5000 words (not including bibliography). This essay 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. Deadline: April 9th at 11.59pm. Please use the filename format: 5806_Yourfamilyname_Essay. Submit the paper electronically via CuLearn.
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 (Jan 11)

2. Secrecy and the social (Jan 18)

3. Some recent theorizations of secrecy (Jan 25)

4. Secrecy Systems (Feb 1)

5. Secrecy and Method (Feb 8)
   - Gusterson, H. 1996. ‘Stuying up revisited’, *PoLAR – Political and Legal*


- Rappert, B. 2010. 'Revealing and concealing secrets in research: the potential for the absent', Qualitative Research 10(5): 571-587.

6. Secrecy, Security, Surveillance (Feb 15)


7. Winter Break (Feb 22)

8. Sociologies of Non-knowing (Mar 1)


9. Culture(s) of Secrecy (Mar 8)


10. Technoscience and secrecy (Mar 15)


11. Leak, Expose, Cover-up (Mar 22)


12. Conspiracy and Conspiracy Theory (Mar 29)


13. Mini-conference (Apr 5)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & METHODS OF EVALUATION:**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WDN</td>
<td>Withdrawn from the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>Deferred (See above)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Scoring Rubric for Presentations of Readings and Mini-Conference
(Based on University of Wisconsin-Madison)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Scoring Criteria</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization</strong></td>
<td>The type of presentation is appropriate for the topic and audience.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(15 points)</td>
<td>Information is presented in a logical sequence.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation makes appropriate references to the readings</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Content</strong></td>
<td>Introduction is attention-getting, lays out the theme well, and establishes a framework for the rest of the presentation.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(45 points)</td>
<td>Technical terms are well-defined in language appropriate for the target audience.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation contains accurate information.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Material included is relevant to the overall message/purpose.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Appropriate amount of material is prepared, and points made reflect well their relative importance.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There is an obvious conclusion summarizing the presentation.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Speaker maintains good eye contact with the audience and is appropriately animated (e.g., gestures, moving around, etc.).</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(40 points)</td>
<td>Speaker uses a clear, audible voice.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delivery is poised, controlled, and smooth.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good language skills and pronunciation are used.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visual aids are well prepared, informative, effective, and not distracting.</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of presentation is within the assigned time limits.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information was well communicated.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Score** | **Total Points** | **100**

**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: [www.calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/](http://www.calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/)

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
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 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*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the Winter 2019 (April) exam period is March 15, 2019.*

**For Religious Obligations:**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**For Pregnancy:**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**For Survivors of Sexual Violence**
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where
survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

**Accommodation for Student Activities**
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

**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. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

**What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?**
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

**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 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.

**Assistance for Students:**
Academic and Career Development Services: http://carleton.ca/sacds/
Writing Services: http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/
Important Information:

- 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).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your MyCarletonOne account through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the MyCarleton Portal.
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts 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 MyCarletonOne 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://students.carleton.ca/

Important Dates

Winter 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7</td>
<td>Winter term classes begin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Deferred final assignments and/or take-home examinations for Fall Term 0.5 credit courses are due.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 18-20, 25-27</td>
<td>Fall term deferred examinations will be written.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Last day to withdraw from Winter term and Winter portion of Fall/Winter courses with full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN to appear on the official transcript.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>April exam schedule available online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 18-22</td>
<td>Winter Break, classes suspended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Last day for summative tests or final examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade in Winter term courses before the official examination period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Winter term ends. Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. Last day for take-home examinations to be assigned (except those that conform to the Academic Regulations of the University in the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar). Last day for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses

April 12-27
Final Examinations for Winter and Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.

April 19-21
Statutory Holiday, University closed

April 27
All take-home examinations are due except those that conform to the academic Regulations of the University in the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.