

POWER, IDENTITY, AND RESISTANCE III: SOCIAL SCIENCES 11300-03

Professor: Paul Staniland
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:50 am
Room: Cobb 409
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00-4:00 pm and by appt.

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Course Description

This seminar is the third of a three-quarter sequence in the Social Sciences Common Core. As a whole, the sequence is designed to examine views and questions concerning the relationship of power to economics, politics, and culture in the modern and contemporary eras. This quarter we will study the relationship between liberalism, power, and violence. The primary, though not exclusive, temporal focus will be on the late 19th century and 20th century as political thinkers grappled with the consequences and ethics of conflict, war, and dominance. We will ask when violence is justified, how liberalism and violence are (and are not) related, and whether modernity and violence are intertwined. Readings include a wide range of major voices on these questions, from Kant to Fanon to Foucault. We will closely study each author's position, modes of discourse, and the logic of his or her arguments, and compare them with those found in other works. There may be some changes in the syllabus as the quarter goes along, and I will be sure to communicate them to you.

Course Requirements

Participation in class discussion is essential for a successful seminar. Students are expected to have carefully done all of the required reading and to be prepared to discuss it in detail. Attendance is mandatory. While participation and involvement are prerequisites for success in this course, civil dialogue is the best way to engage in debate and disagreement. Participation will account for 25% of your grade.

Three analytical papers will be assigned over the course of the quarter. Each paper should be 6-8 pages (doubled-spaced, 12-point font, paginated, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman). All quotations should be properly cited. The topic will be provided in class and your paper should be turned in (hard copy – not email) at the beginning of the class meeting one week later. The final paper for the course will be turned in at my office, as discussed below.

The papers will ask you to critically assess arguments and claims drawn from our reading. They are not opportunities for you to do a literature review or summary of readings, but instead to advance your own argument with clear writing and exposition.

Due dates are indicated on the class schedule. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the due dates for all assignments. Late papers will not be accepted unless a 24-hour extension is

requested and granted, which will be possible but rare (and a maximum of one time per student). Each paper will count for 25% of your grade.

Electronic Etiquette

Students should not use cell phones, laptops, or PDAs during class. This will allow more focused discussion and intellectual exchange.

We aim to be responsive to email from students. However, please do not expect an answer to your question any sooner than at least 48 hours after it is sent. Last-minute email questions and requests are bad for everyone involved. I also prefer that students use office hours rather than email for asking substantive questions.

Required Books (available from the Seminary Co-op):

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil* (New York: Penguin, 2006)

Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove, 2005)

Michel Foucault, *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison* (New York: Vintage, 1995)

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2010)

Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998)

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)

Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization: A Philosophical Inquiry into Freud* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1974)

Required readings that are not drawn from the books for purchase can be found through the online Chalk system (<http://chalk.uchicago.edu>).

Academic Integrity

This is the University of Chicago's Academic Integrity statement:

“It is contrary to justice, to academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit the statements or ideas of work of others as one's own. To do so is plagiarism or cheating, offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously. Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas, whether by direct quotation or paraphrase, is expected. In particular, if any written or electronic source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number, or by website and date accessed. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor.”

If you have questions, ask us and/or consult Charles Lipson's *Doing Honest Work in College* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Week One

Session 1 (March 27)
Introduction and Overview

Session 2 (March 29)
Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, parts 1 & 2

Week Two

Session 1 (April 3)
Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" & "Perpetual Peace" (Chalk documents)

Session 2 (April 5)
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, part 1

Week Three

Session 1 (April 10)
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, part 2

Session 2 (April 12)
Georges Sorel, "The decadence of the bourgeoisie and violence," "The Proletarian Strike," and "The Ethics of the Producers." All from Georges Sorel, *Reflections on Violence* (Cambridge University Press) (Chalk documents)

1st paper topic handed out on April 12

Week Four

Session 1 (April 17)
John Dewey, "Force and Coercion" and "Force, Violence and the Law" (Chalk documents)

Session 2 (April 19)
Ernst Junger, "On Pain" (Chalk documents)

1st paper due on April 19 at the beginning of class in hard copy

Week Five

Session 1 (April 24)
Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chapters 1-4

Session 2 (April 26)
Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, Chapters 5-8

Week Six

Session 1 (May 1)

Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Intro & Part one

Session 2 (May 3)

Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Part 2

2nd paper topic handed out on May 3

Week Seven

Session 1 (May 8)

Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, Preface by Sartre, pp. xliii-lxii; "Concerning Violence," "Violence in the International Context," pp. 1-62.

Session 2 (May 10)

Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, "Grandeur and Weakness of Spontaneity", Trials and Tribulations of National Consciousness", pp 63-144

2nd paper due on May 10 at the beginning of class in hard copy

Week Eight

Session 1 (May 15)

Martin Luther King, "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," "Beyond Vietnam," Speech on Vietnam" "Where Do We Go From Here?" "I've Been to the Mountaintop" (Chalk documents)

Session 2 (May 17)

Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Chapters 1-6

Week Nine

Session 1 (May 22)

Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Chapters 7-8, 13-15, Epilogue, Postscript

Session 2 (May 24)

Foucault, *Discipline & Punish*, Part 1: "The body of the condemned"; "The spectacle of the scaffold"; (p 1-69)

Week Ten

Session 1 (May 29)

Foucault, *Discipline & Punish*, Part 3: "Docile bodies"; "The means of correct training"; "Panopticism" (p 135-209)

3rd paper topic handed out on May 29

3rd paper due in the box outside my office (hard copy) by 5 pm on Tuesday, June 5