

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

POLITICS 3306F (550)

Fall 2018

POLITICAL AUTHORITY AND RESISTANCE: The Dark Side of Politics

Instructor: Dr. Paul W. Nesbitt-Larking (A301) (519) 438-7224 ext. 286
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Classes: Monday 18:30 - 20:30, W103

Office Hours: Monday 16:30 – 17:30 Tuesday 12:30 – 13:30

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in 3rd or 4th year Political Science or permission of the Department for students not registered in Political Science programs.

Course Description:

The course is an introduction to the role of the masses in political life. Topics include agitation, propaganda, protest, social movements, symbolic politics and mobilization. Ethnic discrimination, nationalism, political terror and political violence are explored through the psychology of ethnocentrism, xenophobia, authoritarianism, dogmatism and racism.

Assigned Readings:

All assigned readings are indicated below and available in full text version on the course website (OWL) as links in the Resources section for downloading.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Satisfactory achievement in this course is measured by the degree to which students demonstrate competence in the following assessable categories of expectation:

Depth and Breadth of Knowledge demonstrated both orally and in written form, through description, explanation, critical understanding and analysis of core course concepts, including: Authority, Resistance, Legitimacy, Categorization, Identification, Entrepreneurs of Identity, Fake News, Post-Truth

Communication, Political Oppression, Domination, Leadership, Followership, Racism, Ethnic Nationalism, Terrorism, the Banality of Evil, Ingroups/Outgroups, Politics of Compassion, Ethics of Care, Truth and Reconciliation, Transitional Justice, Retributive/Restorative Justice.

Knowledge and understanding of the principal theories associated with the study of Political Authority and Resistance: Authoritarianism, Social Identity Theory, Self-Categorization Theory, Society of the Spectacle, Theory of Racism.

Communication Skills: An ability to communicate political scientific information, arguments, and analyses regarding political authority and resistance with precision, relevance, and adequate style in writing and orally. An ability to write in the academic political science essay format and to address set questions under time-limited examination conditions. An ability to understand and apply scholarly documentation techniques appropriate to political science. A capacity to engage in reasoned dialogue and debate with others over theories, issues, and perspectives on political authority and resistance.

Assessment and Due dates:

1. Participation. Ongoing assessment of the quantity and quality of student participation and background preparation: **15 per cent**
2. Seminar Leadership. Each student will co-facilitate a seminar: **5 per cent**
3. Weekly Quiz on Assigned Readings: **30 per cent** (Starting in Week 2)
4. Complementary Assignment (due November 12, 2018): **15 per cent**
5. Course Essay. An assigned essay (due December 3, 2018): **35 per cent**

COURSE METHODS:

Course methods comprise assigned reading and essay reading research, formal essay composition, social media/editorial/opinion-based writing, instructor-based exposition, seminar leadership, large group seminar participation, small group seminar participation, and reader recognition/response written assignments under time-limited conditions.

EXPECTATIONS

Assignment drop-off

Essays and other written assignments must be handed to me directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

What Your Grades mean

The University of Western Ontario Senate has adopted a set of grade descriptors which explain the meaning of grades assigned in all university courses:

- A+ 90-100% One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
- A 80-89% Superior work which is clearly above average
- B 70-79% Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C 60-69% Competent work, meeting requirements
- D 50-59% Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F below 50% Fail

Course expectations and aspirations

- An expectation of self-directed, independent and active learning.
- An expectation of routine attendance in scheduled meetings.
- An expectation that assigned readings will be read thoroughly and annotated prior to scheduled meetings.
- An expectation that each student will participate in an active and relevant manner, contributing ideas and insights derived from the assigned reading.
- An aspiration toward precision, accuracy and clarity in oral communication, including active listening skills.
- An aspiration toward enhanced depth and breadth of learning as the course proceeds.
- An aspiration toward more critical and analytical thinking as the course proceeds and assignments are completed.
- An aspiration toward a continued curiosity toward new ideas and an openness toward others and their ideas.

Political Science Department Regulations

Late Penalties: It is the policy of the Department of Political Science to exact a penalty of 2 marks (i.e. 2 per cent of the grade on the assignment) per working day for late papers. Papers will not be accepted by instructors if they are more than two weeks late.

Documentation: Students must follow the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* Editorial Style Guidelines. Internet Documentation: All information obtained through the Internet must be cited in footnotes/endnotes and bibliographies. Internet citations must include all of the same information that is provided when citing a book or article. This includes the name of the author, name of the organisation that has posted the website, the title, the date the website was consulted, and the website address. For more details on proper electronic citation, consult the information desk at the Huron University College library. Assignment Drop-off: Essays and other written assignments must be handed to the instructor directly or placed in the essay drop-off box.

Class Attendance: You are strongly advised not to miss any class meetings. Important material, detailed instructions, information and insights on course themes, examinations, written work, course objectives and other essential matters will be presented in these hours.

WEEKLY SESSIONS:

1. September 10, 2018. Political Authority and Resistance: An Introduction

Reading:

Max Ginsberg. 2016. "Authority". *Critical Quarterly* Online. 58(3): 91-93. 22 December 2016.

Patricia Burke Wood. 2017. "Questioning Authority." *Dialogues in Human Geography* 7(3): 274-279.

2. September 17, 2018. Social Identity: Categorization, Identification, and Comparison

Reading:

Stephen Reicher. 2004. "The Context of Social Identity: Domination, Resistance, and Change." *Political Psychology* 25(6): 921-945.

3. September 24, 2018. Post-Truth and Fake News and Political Authority

Reading:

Martin Hirst. 2017. "Toward a Political Economy of Fake News." *The Political Economy of Communication* 5(2): 82-94.

Silvio Waisbord. 2018. "The Elective Affinity Between Post-Truth Communication and Populist Politics." *Communication Research and Practice* 4(1): 17-34.

4. October 1, 2018. The Politics of Oppression

Reading:

Isaac Prilleltensky and Lev Gonick. 1996. "Politics Change, Oppression Remains: On the Psychology and Politics of Oppression," *Political Psychology*, 17(1):127-148.

5. October 15, 2018. Authoritarian Leadership and Followership

Reading:

Douglas Kellner. 2017. "Preface: Guy Debord, Donald Trump, and the Politics of Spectacle." In M. Briziarelli and E. Armano, eds. *The Spectacle 2.0: Reading Debord in the Context of Digital Capitalism*. (pp. 1-13). London: University of Westminster Press.

Stephen Reicher and S. Alexander Haslam. 2016. "The Politics of Hope: Donald Trump as an Entrepreneur of Identity." *Scientific American Online*. November 19, 2016.

Amanda Taub. 2016. "The Rise of American Authoritarianism." *Vox*. March 1, 2016.

6. October 22, 2018. Racism, Ethnocentrism, and Xenophobia

Reading:

Benjamin P. Bowser. 2017. "Racism: Origin and Theory." *Journal of Black Studies*. 48(6): 572-590.

7. October 29, 2018. Ethno-racial Nationalism

Reading:

Michael Skey. 2010. "'A Sense of Where You Belong in the World': National Belonging, Ontological Security and the Status of the Ethnic Majority in England." *Nations and Nationalism* 16(4): 715-733.

8. November 5, 2018. Terrorism

Reading:

Martha Crenshaw. 2000. "The Psychology of Terrorism: An Agenda for the 21st Century." *Political Psychology* 21(2): 405-420.

Richard Jackson. 2011. "In Defence of 'Terrorism': Finding a Way Through a Forest of Misconceptions." *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression* 3(2):116-130.

9. November 12, 2018. The Politics of Hate

Reading:

Stephen Reicher, S. Alexander Haslam and Rakshi Rath. 2008. "Making a Virtue of Evil: A Five-step Social Identity Model of the Development of Collective Hate." *Social and Personality Psychology Compass* 2/3: 1313-1344.

10. November 19, 2018. Political Protest, Disobedience, and Resistance

Reading:

Jocelyn A. Hollander and Rachel L. Einwohner. 2004. "Conceptualizing Resistance." *Sociological Forum* 19(4): 533-554.

11. November 26, 2018. Altruism and the Politics of Care

Reading:

Elisabeth Porter. 2006. "Can Politics Practice Compassion?" *Hypatia*, 21(4): 97-123.

12. December 3, 2018. Healing, Truth and Reconciliation

Reading:

Kevin Avruch. 2007. "Truth and Reconciliation Commissions." In *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*. (pp. 1-3). London: John Wiley.

Wendy Lambourne. 2009. "Transitional Justice and Peacebuilding After Mass Violence." *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 3: 28-48.



Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.