

POLI 13: Power and Justice
University of California, San Diego
Department of Political Science
Fall 2013

Prof. Fonna Forman
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SME 404, W 11-12

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Through an examination of classic texts in political and social theory, news clippings and editorials, speeches, music, literature, documentary and film, we will explore two general themes: 1) the ways that individuals are consciously and unconsciously subject to various modes of *power* in the social and political worlds through which they move; and 2) theories and practices of resistance that have emerged to challenge modes of power perceived as *unjust*.

Books for purchase

- * John Stuart Mill, *‘On Liberty’ and Other Writings* (Cambridge)
- * Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays* (Dover)
- * All other readings are found in the Course Reader, available for purchase at: University Readers. 858-552-1120. Or <http://www.universityreaders.com/students/instructions> Once you pay for your reader online, you will get a link to a PDF containing 30% of the course readings, to get you started until your reader arrives.

Requirements

Two in-class open-text midterm exams during weeks 5 and 10 (40%); and one 6-8 page take-home final project due during exam week (50%). Only your highest midterm grade will “count” toward the calculation of your final grade, which is my way of encouraging efforts at improvement. Game this as you wish. The choice is there for your benefit. The remaining 10% will be at the discretion of your TA, based upon attendance and participation in section. Significant improvement in written work will be considered when calculating final grade. Hate to mention it, but plagiarism will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of university policy.

Schedule

I. Power and Obedience

Week 1:

M: Introduction

W: Stanley Milgram, “The Perils of Obedience” FILM: *Obedience*

Section: Introduction, Discussion of Milgram. Read J. R. P. French and B. Raven “The Bases of Social Power”

Week 2: Discipline and order

M: Michel Foucault, “Panopticism” (in *Discipline and Punish*)

W: Foucault, cont’d. Plato, *Republic* 514a-517a VIDEO CLIP: On Plato’s Cave

Section: Discussion of Foucault, Plato’s cave.

Week 3: Tyranny of opinion

W: John Stuart Mill On Liberty, Parts 1-3

Section: Discussion of Mill, Part 4.

Week 4: Tyranny of opinion: the case of women

M: Documentary: *Beyond Killing us Softly: The Impact of Media Images on Women and Girls*

W: John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women*, Parts 1-3.

Section: Discuss documentary in light of Mill. Read: Amnesty International: “What is Female Genital Mutilation?”; Molly Melching, “You are an African Woman”; Yael Tamir, “Hands Off Clitoridectomy”

Week 5: Power and culture: global perspectives

M: Frédérique Appfel-Marglin “Smallpox in Two Systems of Knowledge”; Martha Nussbaum, “Women and Cultural Universals”; Amartya Sen “The Violence of Illusion” and “Freedom to Think”
FILM selections: *The Final Inch*

W: **Midterm I (Milgram, Foucault, Mill, Marglin, Nussbaum)**

No Section

II. Power and Justice: The Case of Nazi Resistance

Week 6: Nazi power

M. Bruno Bettelheim, “Remarks on the Psychological Appeal of Totalitarianism”; James Waller, “The Dead End of Demonization”

W. Alan Riding, “Leni Riefenstahl, Filmmaker and Nazi Propagandist, Dies at 101,” *NYT*, Sept. 9, 2003
FILM selections from Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will*

Section: Discussion of *Triumph of the Will*; Read: Ervin Staub, “Genocide and Mass Killing”

Week 7: Resistance: The case of rescuing

M: Veterans Day holiday

W: Kristen R. Monroe, Michael C. Barton and Ute Klingeman, "Altruism and the Theory of Rational Action: Rescuers of Jews in Nazi Europe"; FILM: *Courage to Care*

III. Justice

Week 8: Conscience, resistance, violence

M: Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*; Gandhi, *On Satyagraha*

W: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail* and Malcolm X, *Ballot or the Bullet*
VIDEO CLIPS: MLK and X

Section: Compare/contrast Thoreau, Gandhi, King and X.

READ: Michael McQuarrie, "Who is Responsible for Police Violence at UC Davis?"

Week 9: Global power, global justice

Monday, November 25: Special two hour evening session: Screening and discussion of *The End of Poverty?* Peterson 110, 5-7

Read: Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"; Thomas Nagel, "Poverty and Food: Why Charity is Not Enough"; Jeffrey Sachs, "Millennium Goals at the Midpoint"; <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

NOTE SPECIAL TIME AND ROOM! PETERSON 110, 5-7PM!!

No section: Thanksgiving holiday

Week 10: Justice: global and local (or: on the specificity of place)

M: Rebecca Solnit, "Nonconforming Uses: Architect Teddy Cruz at the Borders of Tomorrow"

Guest Lecture: Professor Teddy Cruz, UCSD Professor of Visual Arts, and Director of the Center for Urban Ecologies.

W: Midterm II (Bettelheim, Monroe, Thoreau, Gandhi, King, X)

Section: Final project workshop

Final project is due in our classroom, at our scheduled exam time, Tuesday, December 13, 11:00am.