

## Political Science 122D

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Fall Quarter 2016

T Th 3:30 – 4:50  
HSS 1330

# ABUSE OF POWER

## Objectives and Approach

Power is a crucial part of politics. Yet, power can be, and often is, abused. This course surveys different forms of power abuse. Since the abuse of power is not confined by national boundaries, the course is broadly cross-national. In the first class meetings, we will discuss the nature of power and its potential abuse. The course will then survey various abuses of power, such as agenda manipulation, rent-seeking, electoral fraud, extortion, corruption, exploitation, and gross political oppression. We will first examine abuses of power under democracy and later also turn to autocratic settings. Generally, we will gradually move from more benign abuses to more severe forms. We will use a variety of teaching materials. Some readings employ analytical tools from political economy, but the course presupposes no particular background in that field, only a willingness to learn. The course is supported by a TritonEd Blackboard account, where we will post the syllabus, announcements, assignments, and lecture slides.

## Course Assignments and Grading

Course assignments include (1) an in-class midterm, (2) a 2000-3000 word paper, and (3) an in-class final examination. In-class tests will consist of objective as well as essay questions. The paper will be on your choice among an assigned set of topics related to course readings. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward your grade. If your final exam grade is better than the average of your midterm and paper, the final will count 50% and each of the other assignments 25% toward your written assignment grade. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third. Class attendance is required, and participation will count for 10% of your final course grade (with written assignments counting for 90%). You will need to complete all the written assignments to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized. Tests will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Incompletes or special exams will in accordance with UCSD policy be given only on the basis of timely petitions in *pressing* and *properly documented* cases.

## Academic Integrity

Fair and effective education requires academic integrity. The General Catalog spells out the relevant UCSD rules. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own work or without proper attribution something done wholly or in part by another person. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments as well as including in your work passages that have been copied more or less verbatim from unattributed sources. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are *individual*, and you are not allowed to collaborate with any person in or outside this class. In-class tests will be *closed-book*, with no aids allowed. As required by UCSD policy, any suspected violation of academic integrity will **without exception** be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

## Teaching Assistant

Alex Verink (averink@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant for this course. His office hours will be Thursdays 12-2 and by appointment in SSB 332.

## Books and Materials

The following books have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore. Shorter assignments will be made from other readings, as listed below. All readings will be placed on electronic or hard reserve at the Geisel Library. All readings are required.

Anne Applebaum, *Gulag: A History*. New York: Anchor Books, 2003.

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Alastair Smith, *The Dictator's Handbook*. New York: Public Affairs, 2011.

John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press, 1982.

William H. Riker, *Liberalism Against Populism*. San Francisco: Freeman, 1982.

Susan Rose-Ackerman, *Corruption and Government*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999.

## Calendar

Tentatively, the **midterm** has been scheduled for **October 20**, and the **papers** will be due on **November 17**. The **final examination** will be given on **Monday, December 5, between 3:00 and 5:59 pm, at a location to be announced**. All class schedules are subject to change.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

### **Thursday, September 22: Introduction: Political Power and Its Abuse**

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Introduction.

### **Tuesday, September 27: Power, Liberty, and Democracy**

Gaventa, chap. 1.

Riker, pp. 1-12.

### **Thursday, September 29: Majority Rule, Elections, and Voting**

Riker, pp. 21-28, chap. 3, and pp. 65-73 and 85-94.

### **Tuesday, October 4: Voting Cycles, Strategic Voting and Agenda Control**

Riker, pp. 115-19, 167-74, and 192-95.

### **Thursday, October 6: Delegation and Agency Problems**

D. Roderick Kiewiet and Mathew D. McCubbins, *The Logic of Delegation: Congressional Parties and the Appropriations Process*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1991, chap. 2.

Kaare Strøm, "Delegation and Accountability in Parliamentary Democracies." *European Journal of Political Research* 37, 3 (May 2000), pp. 261-89.

### **Tuesday, October 11: Rent Extraction and Extortion**

Michael Lewis, *Boomerang*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011, chap. 2 ("And They Invented Math.")

Fred S. McChesney, *Money for Nothing*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997, chap. 3.

Glenn R. Parker, *Congress and the Rent-Seeking Society*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996, chap. 1.

**Thursday, October 13: Democratic Exploitation: Central Appalachia**  
Gaventa, chaps. 1-4 and 10.

**Tuesday, October 18: The Logic of Power**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 1-2.

**Thursday, October 20: Midterm Examination**

**Tuesday, October 25: Rigging the Game: Electoral Fraud**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 3.  
M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, chap. 3.  
John Fund and Hans von Spakovsky, *Who's Counting?* New York: Encounter Books, 2012, Introduction and chap. 2

**Thursday, October 27: The Power of the Purse**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 4-5.

**Tuesday, November 1: Corruption**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 6.  
Rose-Ackerman, chaps. 1-3 and 6.

**Thursday, November 3: Combating Corruption**  
Rose-Ackerman, chaps. 7-9, 11-12.

**Tuesday, November 8: Foreign Aid**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 7.

**Thursday, November 10: War and Revolt**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 8-9.

**Tuesday, November 15: Predation and Totalitarian Government**  
Applebaum, Introduction, chaps. 1 and 3.

**Thursday, November 17: Totalitarianism: The Russian Revolution and the GULAG**  
Applebaum, chaps. 6-8, 10-11, and 17.

**Papers Due**

**Tuesday, November 22: Study Day**

**Tuesday, November 29: The Horrors of the GULAG**  
Applebaum, chaps. 22-23, 26-27, and Epilogue: Memory.

**Thursday, December 1: Taming Power**  
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 10.  
Riker, chap. 10.

**Monday, December 5: Final Examination (3:00 – 5:59 pm, location TBA)**