

Political Science 13
Power and Justice
First Summer Session 2009
Professor Houston

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the study of politics by reading and discussing works of social and political theory. It is not a survey course in the history of political philosophy. Rather, it is an exploration of relationships of power and justice in contemporary life.

Among the questions we will ask are the following: What does it mean to be free? What is the relationship between freedom and power? What are our obligations to each other? What are our options when power is used unjustly?

In framing these questions, our focus will be the lives of ordinary men and women in liberal-democratic states. Our attention will not be restricted to overtly political activities and concerns. Voting, taxpaying and military service are important. But often it is in the world of work, in voluntary associations, and in intimate relationships, that modern citizens find (and lose) meaning, identity, social standing, and self-respect.

Political Science 13 is an introductory course, and assumes no previous study of political theory. Materials range from political pamphlets and philosophical treatises to court decisions, works of literature, and short films.

Requirements

1. Regular attendance of lectures, and participation in discussion sections. (20% of final grade)
2. A five-page (approximately 1,500 words) paper on Mill, due at the start of class on 9 July. (20% of final grade)
3. A ninety-minute in-class examination on Machiavelli, at the start of class on 16 July. (20% of final grade)
4. An eight-page (approximately 2,400) paper on Ellison, due at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 31 July. A collection box for this paper will be placed outside my office, SSB 362. (40% of final grade)

Course Materials

The following books are available at the University Bookstore:

Mill, *On Liberty* (Hackett)
Machiavelli, *Political Writings* (Hackett)
Ellison, *Invisible Man* (Vintage)

All other readings are on-line at <http://courses.ucsd.edu/restricted/ahouston/reserves/ps13.htm> To access these documents you will need a username (ahouston) and a password (Hist0ry) [note that that is a zero, not the letter o].

Additional Information

1. My office is SSB 362. My phone number is 534-2951, and my email address is ahouston@ucsd.edu. I will be holding office hours on Wednesdays from 11:00 – 12:00, and by appointment.
2. The TA for this course is Patrick Rogers, SSB 350, pjrogers@ucsd.edu. Patrick's office hours will be announced in section.

Reading Assignments and Course Schedule

1. Citizenship (30 June)

Plato, *The Crito*

2. Freedom (2 – 7 July)

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (chs. 1 – 4)

9 July: Paper Due

3. Coercion (9 – 14 July)

Niccolò Machiavelli, *The Prince* (entire)

16 July: In-class Examination

4. Standing (21 – 30 July)

13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the *Constitution*

Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 US 537

Booker T. Washington, “Atlanta Exposition Address”

W.E.B. DuBois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (chs. 1, 3)

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (Prologue; chs. 1, 2, 6, 8 - 10, 13, 14, 16, 20 - 25; Epilogue)

31 July: Paper Due