

POLI 13: Power and Justice
University of California, San Diego
Department of Political Science
Winter 2012

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SSB 371 M 2:30-4

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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 subjected 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 20% of the course readings, to get you started until your reader arrives.

Requirements

Two in-class open-text midterm exams (30%); and one 6-8 page take-home final project due during exam week (30%). 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 Read J. R. P. French and B. Raven “The Bases of Social Power”

Week 2: Discipline

M: NO CLASS: MLK, Jr. Day

W: Michel Foucault, "Panopticism" (in *Discipline and Punish*)

Section: Discussion of Milgram, Foucault; READ: Plato, *Republic* 514a-517a

Week 3: Tyranny of opinion

M: John Stuart Mill *On Liberty*, Parts 1-3

W: Mill, cont'd.

Section: Mill, cont'd.

Week 4: Tyranny of opinion: the case of women

M: John Stuart Mill, *Subjection of Women*, Parts 1-3

W: Mill, cont'd. FILM selections from *Beyond Killing us Softly: The Impact of Media Images on Women and Girls*

Section: Read: Amnesty International: "What is Female Genital Mutilation?"; Molly Melching, "You are an African Woman"; Yael Tamir, "Hands Off Clitoridectomy"

Week 5: Culture, identity and freedom: a global perspective

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

W: **Midterm I**

No Section

II. Power and Justice: The Case of Nazi Resistance

Week 6: Nazi power and genocide

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: Rescuers

M: NO CLASS: President's Day

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*

Section: Read: Hillel Levine, "Sugihara's List"

III. Justice

Week 8: Conscience, resistance, violence

M: Henry David Thoreau, *On 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: Craig Calhoun, "Claiming Democracy"; and Michael McQuarrie, "Who is Responsible for Police Violence at UC Davis?"

Week 9: Global power, global justice

M: **Special two hour evening session: Screening and discussion of *The End of Poverty?***

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 ROOM!

Section: READ: Martha Nussbaum, "Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism"; Kwame Anthony Appiah, "Kindness to Strangers"

Week 10: Power and Justice

M: Reflections, review, wrap-up

W: **Midterm II**

Section: Final project workshop

Final project is due in our classroom at our scheduled exam time, Friday March 23, 9-10am.