

ABUSE OF POWER

Objectives and Approach

The exercise of power is a crucial part of politics. Yet, power can be, and often is, abused. This course surveys many different forms of power abuse. Since the abuse of power is confined neither by national boundaries nor by constitutions, the course is broadly cross-national. In the initial meetings, we shall discuss the nature of power and its abuse. The course will then survey a variety of abuses of power, such as agenda manipulation, rent-seeking, electoral fraud, extortion, corruption, exploitation, and gross political oppression. The course will initially focus on abuses of power under democracy. Later, we shall examine abuses of power in autocratic settings. Generally, we shall begin with more benign abuses and gradually move on to more severe forms. The course 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 will be supported by a Ted Blackboard account, where the syllabus, announcements, assignments, and lecture slides will be posted.

Course Assignments and Grading

Course assignments include (1) a paper, (2) an in-class midterm, 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. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward your course 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 course 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, however, 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 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

Sara Kerosky (smkerosk@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant. Her office hours will be Tuesdays 1:00 to 3:00pm and by appointment in SSB 322.

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 **February 5**, and the **papers** will be due on **March 5**. The **final examination** will be given on **Tuesday, March 17, between 3:00 and 5:59 pm**. All dates and class schedules are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Tuesday, January 6: Introduction: Political Power and Its Abuse

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Introduction.

Thursday, January 8: Power, Liberty, and Democracy

Gaventa, chap. 1.

Riker, pp. 1-16.

Tuesday, January 13: Majority Rule, Elections, and Voting

Riker, pp. 21-28, chap. 3, and pp. 65-73, 85-94, 111-13, 115-19.

Thursday, January 15: Strategic Voting and Agenda Control

Riker, pp. 137-38, 141-44, 167-68, 169-74, 192-95.

Tuesday, January 20: 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.

Thursday, January 22: 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.

"Criminalizing the American Economy." *The Economist*, August 30, 2014, pp. 21-24.

Tuesday, January 27: Democratic Exploitation: Central Appalachia

Gaventa, chaps. 1-4 and 10.

Thursday, January 29: The Logic of Power

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 1-2.

Tuesday, February 3: Review Session

Thursday, February 5: Midterm Examination

Tuesday, February 10: Rigging Elections

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 3.

M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, chap. 3.

Thursday, February 12: The Power of the Purse

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 4-5.

Tuesday, February 17: Corruption

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 6.

Rose-Ackerman, chaps. 1-3 and 6.

Thursday, February 19: Corruption and Reform

Rose-Ackerman, chaps. 7-9, 11-12.

Tuesday, February 24: Foreign Aid

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 7.

Thursday, February 26: War and Revolt

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 8-9.

Tuesday, March 3: Predation and Totalitarian Government

Applebaum, Introduction, chaps. 1 and 3.

Thursday, March 5: Totalitarianism: The Russian Revolution to the GULAG

Applebaum, chaps. 6-8, and 10-11.

Papers Due

Tuesday, March 10: Horrors of the GULAG

Applebaum, chaps. 17, 22-23, and 26-27.

Thursday, March 12: Taming Power

Applebaum, Epilogue.

Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 8 and 10.

Riker, chap. 10.

Tuesday, March 17: Final Examination (3:00 – 5:59 pm, location TBA)