

**POLI 13: Power and Justice**  
**Winter 2018**

**Professor Fonna Forman**

[fonna@ucsd.edu](mailto:fonna@ucsd.edu)

M 10:00-11:00 @ Mandeville coffee cart

**TAs:**

Marcelo Goncalves [msilvaol@ucsd.edu](mailto:msilvaol@ucsd.edu) Office hours: Fridays 11am-12noon @ SSB 347

Melvin Rodriguez [mdr017@ucsd.edu](mailto:mdr017@ucsd.edu) Office hours: Thursday 12:50-2 @ GPS student lounge

Yile Zhang [yiz871@ucsd.edu](mailto:yiz871@ucsd.edu) Office hours: Tuesday 8:30 to 10:30 @ SSB 331

**Section**

**TA**

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|------------------|-------------------|
| • Wednesday 10am | Yile Zhang        |
| • Wednesday 11am | Yile Zhang        |
| • Friday 9am     | Marcelo Goncalves |
| • Friday 10am    | Marcelo Goncalves |
| • Friday 2pm     | Melvin Rodriguez  |
| • Friday 3pm     | Melvin Rodriguez  |

Through an examination of classic texts in political and social theory, news clippings and editorials, speeches, literature, art, architecture, diagrams, documentary and guest lectures, we will explore two general themes: 1) the ways that individuals and groups are consciously and unconsciously motivated by various modes of *power* in the social and political world; and 2) theories and practices of resistance that have emerged to challenge modes of power claimed to be *unjust*.

**Books for purchase**

\* John Stuart Mill, *'On Liberty' and Other Writings* (Cambridge)

\* Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience and Other Essays* (Dover)

\* Some readings are found in the Course Reader, available for purchase at: University Readers.  
858-552-1120. <https://students.universityreaders.com/store/>

\* Some readings are found online. Live links are embedded in the syllabus

**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%). Final project prompt will be distributed in week 6. Only your highest midterm grade will "count" toward the calculation of your final grade, which is our way of encouraging efforts at improvement. Game this as you wish. The choice is 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 even mention it, but plagiarism will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of university policy.

Final project is due in our classroom during our scheduled final exam time: **Wednesday, March 21, 10-11am.**

Please check your UCSD email regularly. All announcements will be distributed by email. Our class listserv only works with UCSD email accounts.

## Schedule

### PART I: Power

#### **Week 1: Authority**

**M:** Introduction

**W:** Authority and Obedience

FILM: *The Power of the Situation*

READ: Stanley Milgram, "The Perils of Obedience"

**Section: Introductions, Discussion of Milgram**

#### **Week 2: Discipline**

**M:** MLK Day – no class

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

VIDEO CLIP: On Plato's Cave

**Section: Discussion of Foucault and Plato**

Read: Plato, *Republic*, 514a-517a (reader)

#### **Week 3: Tyranny of Opinion**

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

**W:** READ:

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

-Albert Einstein, *The Negro Question*, <https://onbeing.org/blog/albert-einsteins-essay-on-racial-bias-in-1946/>

**Section: Discussion of FGM/C and tensions between 'liberty' and culture**

READ:

--Amnesty International: "What is Female Genital Mutilation?" (reader)

--Molly Melching, "You are an African Woman" (reader)

--Yael Tamir, "Hands Off Clitoridectomy" (reader)

## **Week 4: Political Tyranny**

### **M: Nazi power I**

READ:

- Bruno Bettelheim, "Remarks on the Psychological Appeal of Totalitarianism" (reader)
- Ervin Staub, "Genocide and Mass Killing" (reader)

**W: Nazi power II:** CLIPS: from Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will*

<p><b>Section: Discussion of 'evil'</b></p>
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<p>READ: James Waller, "The Dead End of Demonization" (reader)</p>
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## **Week 5: PART II: JUSTICE**

### **M: MIDTERM 1 Midterm #1 (Milgram, Foucault, Mill)**

### **W: Power and Resistance:**

READ: Kristen R. Monroe, Michael C. Barton and Ute Klingeman, "Altruism and the Theory of Rational Action: Rescuers of Jews in Nazi Europe" (reader)

FILM: *Courage to Care*

<p><b>Section: Discussion Monroe et al.</b></p>
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## **Week 6: Justice as Resistance: Theories and Tactics**

### **M: Thoreau: conscientious objection**

READ: Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*

### **W: Gandhi and Mandela: the question of violence**

READ:

- Gandhi, *On Satyagraha* (reader)
- Nelson Mandela, *I am Prepared to Die*
- [http://db.nelsonmandela.org/speeches/pub\\_view.asp?pg=item&ItemID=NMS010](http://db.nelsonmandela.org/speeches/pub_view.asp?pg=item&ItemID=NMS010)

AUDIO CLIP: Mandela

<p><b>Section: Discussion of Thoreau, Gandhi and Mandela</b></p>
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## **Week 7: Justice as Resistance: Race in America**

### **M: No Class, President's Day**

**Please see:** *13<sup>th</sup>* (Award-winning documentary on race and the US criminal justice system). Available on Netflix: <https://www.netflix.com/title/80091741>.

### **W: Martin Luther King and Malcolm X:**

READ:

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail* (reader)
- Malcolm X, *Ballot or the Bullet* (reader)

VIDEO CLIPS: MLK and X

#### **Section: Discussion of Race and the US Criminal Justice system**

READ: The Videos That Are Putting Race and Policing Into Sharp Relief

[http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/30/us/police-videos-race.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/30/us/police-videos-race.html?_r=0)

(read also “related article” links)

DISCUSS: *13<sup>th</sup>* (Award-winning documentary on race and the US criminal justice system).

## **Week 8: Global Justice**

### **M: Global Poverty**

READ:

- Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence and Morality” (reader)
- Thomas Nagel, “Poverty and Food: Why Charity is Not Enough” (reader)
- Mike Davis, Introduction to “Planet of Slums” (reader)

### **W: Climate Justice**

READ:

- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si: On Care of our Common Home*, Ch. 1, Sections IV-VI (parag. 43-59) Ch. 4 (parag.137-162) [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)
- Darrel Moellendorf, "Justice in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Policies"

#### **Section: Discussion of *Laudato Si***

## Week 9: Global Justice localized: San Diego / Tijuana

### M: Guest lecture: Teddy Cruz, “*Social Justice in the Borderlands*”

#### READ:

--Justin McGuirk, "Tijuana: Life on the political equator" in *Radical Cities*, reprinted in The Guardian, July 1, 2014 <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/jul/01/tijuana-political-equator-radical-cities-extract-justin-mcguirk>

--Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman, “Unwalling Citizenship,” *Avery Review* 21 (2017) <http://averyreview.com/issues/21/unwalling-citizenship>

### W: Guest lecture: “*Going local: University-Community Partnerships*”

The Intersectional Health Project San Diego and The Blum Summer Field Internship  
Anika Ullah, Tokio Shimamura and Kara Lu

Section: Discussion of *Going local: What you can do*

## Week 10:

### M: Midterm II (Thoreau, Gandhi, King, X, Singer, Nagel, Pope Francis)

W: SPECIAL TWO-HOUR EVENING SESSION + Discussion, NOTE ROOM: TBC  
Screening of *The End of Poverty?*

Section: Final project workshop

**Final project is due in our classroom at our scheduled exam time:  
Wednesday March 21, 10-11am.**