

**POLI 13: Power and Justice**  
**Winter 2020**

**Professor Fonna Forman**

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**Section Days**

Wednesdays

Thursdays

Fridays

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

**Course texts and resources**

**All texts are available on CANVAS (as PDFs or web links).**

**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%). The remaining 10% will be at the discretion of your TA, based upon attendance and participation in section.

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. Final project prompt will be distributed during week 8, and due at NOON on Wednesday March 18. There is no sit-down final exam in this class.

The two opportunities for extra credit in weeks 5 and 7, if done well, can each increase your grade by 2%.

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. All take-home assignments will be submitted through turnitin.

Frequent announcements will be distributed by email. Please check your UCSD email regularly. 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 and Social Tyranny**

**M:** READ: Michel Foucault, "Panopticism" in *Discipline and Punish*

IN-CLASS VIDEO CLIP: On Plato's Cave

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

**Section: Discussion of Foucault and Mill**

READ: Plato, *Republic*, 514a-517a

#### **Week 3: Social Tyranny: gender and sexual identity**

**M:** MLK Day – No class

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

IN-CLASS VIDEO CLIP: *Ma Vie en Rose*

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

READ:

- -Amnesty International: "What is Female Genital Mutilation?"
- -Yael Tamir, "Hands Off Clitoridectomy"
- -Martha Nussbaum, "Double Moral Standards?"

## Week 4: Political Tyranny

### M: Nazi power I

READ:

--Bruno Bettelheim, "Remarks on the Psychological Appeal of Totalitarianism"

--Ervin Staub, "Genocide and Mass Killing"

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

READ: Melissa Dittmann, "What Makes Good People Do Bad Things?"

#### **Section: The power of the situation**

READ: James Waller, "Perpetrators of Genocide: An Explanatory Model of Extraordinary Human Evil"

## Week 5:

**M: MIDTERM I: (Milgram, Foucault, Mill, Bettelheim)**

**W: Transition to Justice: Conscience and Rational Action**

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

IN-CLASS FILM Clip: *Courage to Care*

#### **Section: NO SECTION**

*Extra credit opportunity: on Wednesday February 29, attend Professor Forman's 5pm Global Forum lecture at ERC entitled "Bending the Curve" (on climate justice), and submit a 2-page reflection/response by email to your TA by Thursday February 30<sup>th</sup> at noon. There will be refreshments too!*

## **PART II: JUSTICE**

### **Week 6: Justice as Resistance I**

#### **M: Theories and Tactics**

READ: Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*

#### **W: Colonization and Apartheid**

READ:

--Gandhi, *Selected Readings*

--Nelson Mandela, *I am Prepared to Die*

AUDIO CLIP: Mandela

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| <b>Section:</b> Discuss Thoreau, Gandhi and Mandela |
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### **Week 7: Justice as Resistance II**

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

Before section this week, 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>. Extra credit opportunity: submit a 2-page reflection/response to your TA by Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at noon.

#### **W: Race in America**

READ:

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

--Malcolm X, *Ballot or the Bullet*

--Albert Einstein, *The Negro Question*

IN-CLASS VIDEO CLIPS: MLK and X

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| <b>Section:</b> |
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| Discussion of <i>13<sup>th</sup></i> - Race and the US Criminal Justice system. |
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| READ: |
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| --Jesse Jackson, "New Years Day is also Emancipation Day" |
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| --The Videos That Are Putting Race and Policing Into Sharp Relief |
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**Week 8: Social-Economic Justice****FINAL ESSAY PROMPT DISTRIBUTED****M: Inequality**

READ:

- Parramore, "America is Regressing into a Developing Nation for Most People"
- MacKinnon and Crenshaw, "Reconstituting the Future: An Equality Amendment" (2019)

**W: SPECIAL TWO-HOUR EVENING SESSION, NOTE ROOM: TBC**Screening of *The End of Poverty?***Section: Discussion of *The End of Poverty*****Week 9: Global Justice - Climate Justice****M: Global Poverty**

READ:

- Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"
- Thomas Nagel, "Poverty and Food: Why Charity is Not Enough"
- Mike Davis, "Planet of Slums" Interview
- Tamara Gausi, "The Many Faces of Labor Exploitation"

**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)**Section: FINAL ESSAY WORKSHOP****Week 10: Localizing the Global****M: Social Justice in the Borderlands, San Diego / Tijuana**READ: Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman, "Unwalling Citizenship," *Avery Review* 21 (2017)**W: Midterm II (Monroe, Thoreau, Gandhi, Mandela, King, X, Singer, Nagel, Pope Francis)****Section: *Going local: What you can do***READ: Maggie Astor, 7 Times in History When Students Turned to Activism, *New York Times*, March 5, 2018**FINAL PROJECT due electronically at NOON on Wed. March 18. Submit through turnitin.**