The University of Alberta  
Department of Political Science  

Winter 2016  

Political Science 410/515: Postcolonial Theory and Practice in Political Philosophy  

Instructor: Dr. Sevan Beukian  
Office: 11-07 Tory Building  
Email: beurkibe@ualberta.ca  
Seminars: Wednesdays 13:00-15:50PM, in 10-4 Tory Building  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 11:00-12:30PM (or by appointment)  

Seminar Description and Objectives  

This is a combined senior undergraduate and graduate level course that runs in a seminar style. This is a special topics course in political philosophy, however, the readings are chosen to bring together both theoretical (and normative) questions with case-study applications. The theoretical perspectives will reinforce student knowledge of the debates and critiques around postcolonialism, and the empirical cases are meant to show the applicability of postcolonial theories/perspectives in a variety of contexts. Moreover, the course will explore the themes and perspectives linked to postcolonialism from various loci of enunciation: western and non-western perspectives, to encourage students to ponder comparatively in political theory. The weekly themes are geared toward introducing a new concept in relation to postcolonialism, such as orientalism, occidentalism, memory, human rights, recognition, reparations, modernity, in order to build a multidimensional understanding of postcolonialism. The course is designed to cover the different debates in the field from an interdisciplinary perspective, as reflected in the selection of weekly readings. As such, students are encouraged to access sources from different languages, loci of enunciation, and medium of communication (though these are optional for the course).  

The principal objective of this course is to introduce a critical reading of postcolonialism in relation to the concepts and themes mentioned above. After completing this course, students will have acquired skills to critically analyze readings/texts from western and non-western perspectives and voices; to develop links between several dimensions and angles of postcolonial theory and its interdisciplinary applications; to communicate theoretical perspectives and complex themes through various assignment formats, which are geared to accomplish all these objectives in this course; and to think comparatively in the field of political theory.  

Class Format  

This is an advanced undergraduate/graduate seminar course that meets once per week for about three hours. Therefore, students are expected to attend and participate actively in seminar sessions every week. Student will have done the weekly readings prior to the beginning of the class session every week. The course session will begin with some comments and lecture
from the instructor to contextualize the theme and topic of the week. The larger part of the seminar will however be based on extended interactive discussions of the weekly readings, whereby students contribute their own views, present their thoughts, and also incorporate their own research interests within those themes. Therefore, it is expected that students take notes while reading, prepare discussion questions, reflect, and familiarize themselves with the concepts and themes of the week before the seminar session every Wednesday.

Seminar Requirements

1- Seminar Attendance and Participation (all term) 20%
2- Seminar Presentation and Reflection Summary (X2) 20%
3- Book Review (February 24) 20%
4- Final Research Paper (March 30) 40%

All details of the assignments will be posted on eclass. Additional materials related to the assignments will also be posted online and hardcopies of the assignments will be distributed in class ahead of the due date. You can find a brief description below for your convenience.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity
The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/Code ofStudentBehaviour.aspx) and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. All Students should consult the Truth-In-Education handbook or Website at http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/TIE regarding the definition of plagiarism and its consequences when detected.

Learning and working environment
The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty, and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behavior that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice: http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in the GFC Policy Manual, section 44 available at http://gfcpolicymanual.ualberta.ca.
Recording of Lectures
Audio or Video recording of lectures, labs, seminars, or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for the use of personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components
Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absence due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by email within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of grade for the attendance and participation components of the course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completes as a result.

Late assignment policy
Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 5% per day, including weekends, for a maximum of one week. After one week, the assignment will not be accepted. If students foresee a problem in meeting an upcoming deadline, it is their responsibility to discuss alternative arrangements with the professor in advance of the deadline. Sufficient notice will be given for all assignments, making general lateness unacceptable.

Specialized Support and Disability Services (SSDS)
If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with SSDS, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; ssdsrec@ualberta.ca; 780-492-3381; www.sds.ualberta.ca).

Course Modification Statement
The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Date of Deferred Final Examination
Not applicable.

Grading Scheme
Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below. The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Failure</td>
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ADDITIONAL NOTES:

If you have any questions or concerns about your standing in the class, lecture material, assignments, or class discussions please schedule an appointment with the instructor or drop in during office hours. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor if the student feels that he or she may need alternative arrangements for class participation. We will work closely with the student in order to ensure that they are able to participate effectively and receive their marks in fairness.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION AND ETIQUETTE

Email communication with the instructor should be considered formal, similar to other professional email correspondence (for work for example). Please make sure you include a subject line that briefly describes the email content. Make sure you mention the course and section you are in. Always sign your complete name at the end of your email. It is important to write emails that are respectful and clear. Your email should address your instructor by title and name (Professor Smith, Ms. Jones) unless instructed otherwise. Finally, if you have substantive questions about the content of the course, please see me during office hours when we can talk more productively.

LAPTOPS AND TABLETS

Laptops and tablets are great ways to take notes in class if you are inclined to do so. However, please refrain from checking email or accessing the internet for recreational use during class and restrict your laptop activities to note taking or looking up items pertinent to class discussion.
Seminar Readings and Themes

The course schedule is subject to change. All changes will be posted on eclass and announced in class. It is the student’s responsibility to check for all updates.

January 6, 2016: Introduction and Course Overview

No Readings


Suggested:


January 20: Empire and Colonialism


Suggested:


**January 27: Orientalism**


Suggested:


**February 3: Subjects and Identities**


Suggested:


**February 10: Subaltern Studies: Can non-Europeans Think?**


Suggested:


Cabral Amilcar, "Tell no lies, Claim no easy victories...", "At the United Nations", https://www.marxists.org/subject/africa/cabral/

→**February 17: NO CLASS – READING WEEK**

**February 24: Postcolonial Modernity and Traditionalism**

→**BOOK REVIEW ASIGNMENT DUE**


**March 2: Postcommunism, Postsocialism, and Postcolonialism**


Suggested:


**March 9: Human rights**

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, 1990: http://www.oic-oci.org/english/article/human.htm → both these readings will be discussed in class as part of group activity.


Suggested/Optional → If you want to read more on Human rights globally and have some free time, I suggest you read Donnelly Chapters 14 “The West and Economic and Social Rights” and Chapter 15 “Humanitarian Intervention against Genocide”, and chapter 16 “Nondiscrimination for All: The case of

March 16: Remembrance and Memory


March 23: Recognition and Reparations


Suggested:


March 30: Postcolonialism and Gender/sexuality Studies


Suggested:

April 5: Postcolonialism and Migration


Amendments to the Code of Student Behaviour occur throughout the year. For the most recent version of the Code, visit http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/

NOTICE TO INSTRUCTORS REGARDING PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS AND PARTICIPATION IN AN OFFENCE

The U of A considers plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence to be serious academic offences. Plagiarism, cheating, misrepresentation of facts and participation in an offence can be avoided if students are told what these offences are and if possible sanctions are made clear at the outset. Instructors should understand that the principles embodied in the Code are essential to our academic purpose. For this reason, instructors will be fully supported by Departments, Faculties and the University in their endeavours to rightfully discover and pursue cases of academic dishonesty in accordance with the Code.

At the beginning of each term, we ask you to review with your students the definitions of plagiarism and cheating. We are now also asking you to review with your students the definition of Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence. Your co-operation and assistance in this matter are much appreciated.

30.3.2(1) Plagiarism

No Student shall submit the words, ideas, images or data of another person as the Student’s own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, project, assignment, presentation or poster in a course or program of study.

30.3.2(2) Cheating

30.3.2(2)a No Student shall in the course of an examination or other similar activity, obtain or attempt to obtain information from another Student or other unauthorized source, give or attempt to give information to another Student, or use, attempt to use or possess for the purposes of use any unauthorized material.

30.3.2(2)b No Student shall represent or attempt to represent him or herself as another or have or attempt to have himself or herself represented by another in the taking of an examination, preparation of a paper or other similar activity. See also misrepresentation in 30.3.6(4).

30.3.2(2)c Cheating (Continued)
No Student shall represent another’s substantial editorial or compositional assistance on an assignment as the Student’s own work.

30.3.2(2)d No Student shall submit in any course or program of study, without the written approval of the course Instructor, all or a substantial portion of any academic writing, essay, thesis, research report, project, assignment, presentation or poster for which credit has previously been obtained by the Student or which has been or is being submitted by the Student in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.

30.3.2(2)e No Student shall submit in any course or program of study any academic writing, essay, thesis, report, project, assignment, presentation or poster containing a statement of fact known by the Student to be false or a reference to a source the Student knows to contain fabricated claims (unless acknowledged by the Student), or a fabricated reference to a source.

30.3.6(4) Misrepresentation of Facts
No Student shall misrepresent pertinent facts to any member of the University community for the purpose of obtaining academic or other advantage. This includes such acts as the failure to provide pertinent information on an application for admission or the altering of an educational document/transcript.

30.3.6(5) Participation in an Offence
No Student shall counsel or encourage or knowingly aid or assist, directly or indirectly, another person in the commission of any offence under this Code.

The Truth In Education (TIE) project is a campus wide educational campaign on Academic Honesty. This program was created to let people know the limits and consequences of inappropriate academic behaviour. There are helpful tips for Instructors and Students. Please take the time to visit the website at: http://www.ualberta.ca/tie
EXCERPTS FROM THE CODE OF STUDENT BEHAVIOUR
FOR REVIEW WITH EACH CLASS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY TERM

Procedures for Instructors Regarding
Plagiarism, Cheating,

Misrepresentation of Facts and Participation in an Offence

The following procedures are drawn from the Code of Student Behaviour as approved by GFC and the Board of Governors. The guidelines summarize what instructors must do when they have reason to believe that a student has plagiarized, cheated, misrepresented facts or participated in an offence. If you have questions about these guidelines, or about the policies, please talk with the senior administrator in your Faculty responsible for dealing with student discipline—usually an Associate Dean — or the Appeals and Compliance Officer (Appeals Coordinator), University Governance (2-2655).

30.5.4 Procedures for Instructors in Cases Respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour

30.5.4(1) When an Instructor believes that a Student may have committed an Inappropriate Academic Behaviour Offence [30.3.2] or that there has been Misrepresentation of Facts [30.3.6(4)] or Participation in an Offence [30.3.6(5)] in cases respecting Inappropriate Academic Behaviour in the course that he or she instructs, the Instructor will meet with the Student. Before such a meeting, the Instructor shall inform the Student of the purpose of the meeting. In the event that the Student refuses or fails to meet with the Instructor within a reasonable period of time specified by the Instructor, the Instructor shall, taking into account the available information, decide whether a report to the Dean is warranted.

30.5.4(2) If the Instructor believes there has been a violation of the Code, the Instructor shall, as soon as possible after the event occurred, report that violation to the Dean and provide a written statement of the details of the case. The instructor may also include a recommendation for sanction.

Possible Sanctions

One or more of the following sanctions gives in 30.4.3 (2) and (3) of the Code are commonly used for plagiarism, cheating, participation in an offence, and misrepresentation of facts:

30.4.3(2) a.i a mark reduction or a mark of 0 on any term work or examination for reason of Inappropriate Academic Behaviour
30.4.3(2) a.ii Reduction of a grade in a course
30.4.3(2) a.iii a grade of F for a course
30.4.3(2) a.iv a remark on a transcript of 8 (or 9 for failing graduate student grades), indicating Inappropriate Academic Behaviour, in addition to 30.4.3(2)a.i, 30.4.3(2)a.ii or 30.4.3(2)a.iii

30.4.3(3) b Expulsion
30.4.3(3) c Suspension

The following sanctions may be used in rare cases:

30.4.3(3) e Suspension of a Degree already awarded
30.4.3(3) f Rescission of a Degree already awarded

30.6.1 Initiation of an Appeal

30.6.1(1) When a Student has been found to have committed an offence under the Code of Student Behaviour or an Applicant is found to have committed an offence under the Code of Applicant Behaviour, whether or not that Student or Applicant has been given a sanction, the Student or Applicant may appeal that decision, except in the case of a decision of the Discipline Officer under 30.5.6(2)e.ii, which remains final and is not subject to appeal. In cases where a severe sanction has been recommended to the Discipline Officer, once the student receives the final decision of the Discipline Officer, the student can appeal the decisions of both Dean and the Discipline Officer at the same time. The written appeal must be presented to the Appeals Coordinator in University Governance within 15 Working Days of the deemed receipt of the decision by the Student or Applicant. The finding that an offence has been committed, the sanction imposed or both may form the basis of appeal. The written appeal must also state the full grounds of appeal and be signed by the Appellant. The appeal shall be heard by the UAB.

PROFESSOR STEVEN PENNEY
CHAIR, CAMPUS LAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

DR MARTIN FERGUSON-PELL
ACTING PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

* The Campus Law Review Committee is a standing committee of General Faculties Council (GFC) responsible for the review of the Code of Student Behaviour and of student disciplinary procedures.

Updated: 30/01/2013