Political Science 410: Contemporary Political Theory
The State and Violence
Fall, 2017

Wednesdays, HC -215: 1:00-3:50 p.m

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Office hours: Mondays, 12-1:00 or by appointment

Course Objectives and General Content
One of the most timely and important preoccupations of contemporary political theory concerns the central architecture of political life, the state, and its so-called “monopoly on legitimate violence”. This course looks at contemporary political theory’s various approaches to the state’s overwhelming capacity to inflict violence. It does so through its military, penal and security apparati.

In the first part of the course, we will look at some of the key texts that have rationalized state violence in political discourse beginning with Weber himself, who coined the definition of the state most often used. This includes two weeks looking at Carl Schmitt’s famous discourse on enmity; a perspective on the position the state takes in terms of its relations with other states in the modern international state system.

We then turn to Walter Benjamin’s important argument that violence is inextricably bound up with law before turning to what Michel Foucault called biopolitics, and the specific ways that the modern state punishes through the prison form. We and use it to investigate the politics of anti-violence. In the third part of the course, we turn to the question of transitional justice, ending with a meditation on loss.

Pre-requisite(s): POL 211, 212

Course materials: Most readings will be available as pdf’s on e-class, with the exception of

Carl Schmitt, The Concept of the Political

Course requirements:
• Short analytic paper, due Oct. 4, 1000 words, questions will be distributed the second week of class. This paper is worth 20% of your final grade
• Two ‘working papers’ (500 words each) worth 15% each, due on October 11 and November 15
• Final take-home exam, distributed in class on Dec. 6, due Dec. 19 by 4:00 p.m. Worth 30% of your final grade.
• Participation grade is worth 20% of your final exam. I will review your participation with you during office hours, or by email the week of October 25, to give you formative evaluation of where I see your participation at that point in the course.
• Students should note that in all but exceptional situations all components of the course must be completed to receive a passing grade. Policy regarding missed term work is outlined in Section 23.4(3) of the University Calendar.
**Recording of Lectures:** Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

- Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University Calendar.

**Access to Representative Course Material**

A criteria for evaluation of all written material will be distributed the first week of class.

**Grading Practices:**

I grade with letter grades (A+, A, A-, B+, B, B- and so on). A+ is equivalent to a 90%, A is an 85%, A- is 80%, and so on.

**Absences and late penalties:**

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail 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 the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

All written work that is late that I have not approved, will be docked 2% per day.

**A Note On Participation:** Senior seminars are successful or not, depending on how willing students to attend regularly, come prepared in the sense of having done the reading carefully, and also being prepared to raise questions about those readings. Outstanding and excellent participation does not mean that you have something to say about everything, nor are you being evaluated on your ‘brilliant’ insights. Really generous participation in seminars always involves the risk of saying out loud what parts of the text you found difficult or confounding. Seminars are places where the exercise of speaking about course materials with your classmates can be practiced and honed. Paying attention to what others in class are saying, learning to think with others about the materials we have read is a useful and important skill.

**Class Schedule:**

**Week One: introduction to Course and Assignments**
Sept. 6, 2017

**Week Two: The State and Violence**
Sept. 13
Weber "Politics as a Vocation" (available as pdf on e-class)

**Week Three: Enmity**
Sept. 20
Carl Schmitt *The Concept of the Political* (available at the bookstore)
Week Four: Enmity -- again  
September 27  
Carl Schmitt -- part two

Week Five: Human Aggression and War  
October 4  
Freud, “Thoughts for the Times on War and Death” (available as pdf on e-class)  
Analytic paper due

Week Six: Law and Violence  
October 11  
Walter Benjamin “The Critique of Violence” (available as pdf on e-class)  
First working paper due

Week Seven: The State and Punishment  
October 18  
Michel Foucault Discipline and Punish “The Spectacle of the Scaffold” (available as pdf on e-class)  
History of Sexuality, Vol. 1, Part V “Right of Death and Power over Life” (available as pdf on e-class)

Week Eight: The State and Punishment  
October 25  
Foucault again -- and “The Redemption Project”

Week Nine: Reading week  
November 6-12

Week Ten: Politics of Anti-Violence  
November 15  
Judith Shklar “Putting Cruelty First” (available as pdf on e-class)  
Elaine Scarry The Body in Pain: Chapter One: “The Structure of Torture”  
Second working paper due

Week Eleven: Human Rights and Transitional Justice  
November 22  
Robert Meister After Evil “Introduction: Disavowing Evil” and Chapter One “The Ideology and Ethics of Human Rights” (available as pdf on e-class)

Week Twelve: Human Rights and Transitional Justice II  
November 29  
Robert Meister, After Evil, Chapter 8 (available as pdf on e-class)

Week Thirteen: Violence and Mourning  
December 6  
Judith Butler Precarious Life “Violence, Mourning, Death” (available as pdf on e-class)  
Final take-home exam distributed, due Dec. 19
Student Support and Academic Honesty:

Learning 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 behaviour 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 Ombuds Office: [http://www.ombuds.service.ualberta.ca/](http://www.ombuds.service.ualberta.ca/). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at [https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110](https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110).

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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which 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."

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor. An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

Student Accessibility Services:

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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

FEELING OVERWHELMED? (In need of student, social, financial or security services?)

The Student Distress Centre listens, offers support, supplies information and provides services:

- Call: 492-HELP (492-4357)
- Drop in: 030-N in the S.U.B.
- Visit: www.su.ualberta.ca/sdc
- Chat: www.campuscrisischat.com/

LEARNING AND WRITING SUPPORT
Students looking to improve their essay writing or study habits are encouraged to visit the Student Success Centre at 2-300 Students Union Building. The SSC exists to help students maximize their educational experience. The writing resources staff provide workshops and one-on-one sessions with students, for a small fee. Visit the website at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/academicsupport/writingstaff.cfm
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).

Cheating (Continued)

30.3.2(2)c 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.

More information can be found at: http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en.aspx
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 given 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)c.i, 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 Steven Dew
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: 27/08/2015