

Course Outline: Psychology and Politics

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

AP/POLS 3070 3.0

Course Description

This course involves the use of psychoanalytic and psychological concepts in contemporary and post contemporary political thought. After outlining key psychological theories, beginning with Freud, the focus is on themes such as ideology and freedom, democracy and paranoia, hysteria, repression and desire, patriarchy and gender, power and resistance, the colonized body and (imperialist) psychology. Key thinkers that will contribute are Sagan on paranoia, Baudrillard on the political and the silent majority, Said on travelling theory and Freud's European bias, Lacan on psychoanalysis, Fanon on race and colonial disorders, Chodorow on gender and relationality, Benjamin on gender and racism online, Han on psychopolitics, and Suler on digital psyche and disinhibition.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode BLEN/ONLN/LECT/SEMR

POLS 3070 3.0 is synchronic – same time and place on Zoom – with the final two classes in a seminar room and POLS 3070 3.0 is asynchronic [either on your own time or during allotted class time]. The course is presented in blended (BLEN) format that includes in-class, on-line and print EE components: seminar presentation, seminar participation, conference presentation, interactive on-line discussion forum, one-minute film, plus paper abstract and essay. It also includes recorded lectures and recorded live PPT slide lecture summaries. The aim is to increase the student's ability to interact proficiently and seamlessly both online and in person to meet the demands of a networked world

Course Materials

Books, Book Chapters and Essays

Jean Baudrillard, "In the Shadow of the Silent Majorities," *In The Shadow of the Silent Majorities or The End of the Social and Other Essays*, trans. Paul Foss, John Johnston and Paul Patton (Semiotext(e) 1983).

Ruha Benjamin, *Race After Technology* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2019).

Nancy Chodorow, Ch. 5, "Gender, Relation, and Difference in Psychoanalytic Perspective," *Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory* (London: Yale University Press, 1991).

Frantz Fanon, "Colonial War and Mental Disorders," and "Conclusion," *The Wretched of the Earth*, trans. Richard Philcox, (New York: Grove Press, 2004).

Sigmund Freud. *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis, The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, Volume XI, trans. and ed. James Strachey (New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company, 1909).

Sigmund Freud. *Civilization and Its Discontents*, trans. and ed. James Strachey New York and London: W.W. Norton and Company, 1961).

Byung-Chul Han, *Psychopolitics*. trans. Erik Butler (London and New York: Verso, 2017).

Jacques Lacan. *The Other Side of Psychoanalysis. The Seminar of Jacques Lacan*, Book XVII, Chapters I, II, V (Section 3, pp.79-81 and Section 4, pp. 81-83)

Eli Sagan, "Democracy and the Paranoid," *The Honey and the Hemlock: Democracy and Paranoia in Ancient Athens and Modern America* (New York: Basic Books, 1994).

Edward Said, *Freud and the Non-European* (London: Verso, 2004).

Edward Said, "Travelling Theory (1982)," *The Edward Said Reader*, eds. Moustafa Bayoumi and Andrew Rubin (New York: Vintage Books, 2000).

Suler, John R., Ch.3 "The Dynamic Digital Psyche," and Ch.4 "The Disinhibited Self," *Psychology of The Digital Age. Humans Becoming Electric* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Sample Weekly Assignments:

Week Six Readings Lecture, Seminar, Discussion Forum Post

Edward Said, "Travelling Theory," pp.195-216.

Edward Said, *Freud and the Non-European*, pp.3-55.

Week Seven Readings Lecture, Seminar, Discussion Forum Post

Nancy Chodorow, Ch. 5, "Gender, Relation, and Difference in Psychoanalytic Perspective" pp.99-113.

Ruha Benjamin, "Introduction," *Race After Technology*, pp1-48.

[Include 1-2 examples of sample course materials assigned weekly (e.g. journal article, chapter, short video, film)]

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Lecture [asynchronous]: 1 hour and 20-30 minutes – prerecorded either to be viewed on your own when you want or during the allotted asynchronous class time. The lectures can be both viewed online and downloaded from Vimeo. These can be watched if interested in a specific theorist; you can watch them all or selectively.

Weekly Readings: [asynchronous] read prior to the class and seminar. Approximately 3-4 hours reading per week. I suggest taking notes on the readings that you think will inform your essay.

Zoom Live PowerPoint (PPT) Slide Lecture Presentation [synchronous]: 14:30-15:20. This will be recorded on Zoom as Professor Bell presents it and it will be posted on the eclass site.

Zoom Seminar/Tutorial Breakout Rooms [synchronous]: 15:20-15:40 The class will be divided into 6 breakout groups to discuss two set discussion questions given at the end of the PPT presentation. The Breakout Rooms will be visited by Professor Bell.

Zoom Collective Seminar discussion [synchronous] 15:45-16:20 – two spokespersons from each Breakout Room Group will present their group's answers to the two weekly questions (one person presenting on each question). Attendance at the Breakout Room discussions and presentation of the collective discussion points/answers in the full tutorial group is what the tutorial seminar grade of 10% is based on.

eClass Discussion Forum Posting [asynchronous]: either during the remaining asynchronous 50 minutes of class time (16:30 to 17:20) or on your own time when it is convenient for you. Post observations/comments/musings (written, images, video, audio files) regarding issues relating to the week's readings. The intent is to get an online discussion going that will supplement the lecture and seminar portion of the course. Both new threads and responses to others' threads count. Each person is expected to do **between 13 and 15 posts** depending on the length of each of the posts. These are to be done weekly and not left until the last days of the course

Essay and Film Abstract [asynchronous]: 500-word **double-spaced** abstract indicating the chosen essay topic, sources, how the essay will be developed and the film idea. The abstract is to be uploaded as a **Word document** to the eClass Essay Abstract Assignment section.

Seminar Conference Presentation of Essay and Film Abstract A 3-minute presentation of your proposed paper topic as set out in the abstract – not simply reading the abstract. One group of 25 (Breakout Room Groups 1-3) will present on the second last class; the second group of 25 (Breakout Room Groups 4-6) will present on the last class.

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
eClass Discussion Forum	15	Online/ Asynchronous	Jan12-Apr12
Seminar/Tutorial Breakout Rooms	10	Online/In-person/ Synchronous]	Jan5-Mar30
Conference Presentation	10	In-person/ Synchronous	Mar 23 & 30
Essay (3250-3500 words Essay and Film Abstract	40 10	Take-home/Asynchronous	Apr6-20
Film (90 seconds)	15	Take-home/Asynchronous	Apr6-10