

Course	FYSM 1506R Topics in the Study of Societies: “Power and Violence”
Term	Fall 2010/Winter 2011
Instructor	Craig McFarlane
Office	C476 Loeb (Monday and Tuesday), A701 Loeb (Thursday)
Office Hours	Monday 5:00-5:45, Tuesday 5:00-5:45, and Thursday 10:30-11:15
Email	teaching@theoria.ca
Course Meets	Thursday 11:35-2:25
Prerequisites	Limited to first year students in the ArtsOne “Criminal Matters” cluster

Course Description

This seminar explores the relation between power and violence in modern and non-modern societies from a sociological perspective. The first semester is oriented towards developing theoretical and conceptual tools useful in the analysis of power and violence while the second semester turns to more substantive topics (e.g., pirates and zombies) drawing upon movies (“Office Space,” “28 Days Later”), novels (*Waiting for the Barbarians*, *Seeing*) and short stories (“Bartleby, The Scrivener”). The course culminates in a final project where students will be asked to apply theoretical concepts in an analysis of a popular culture artefact (e.g., movie, television show, comic book, novel, etc). The overall focus in both semesters will be on the connection between large-scale social structure and the manifestation of power and violence.

Course Objectives

- To introduce the student to reading theoretical texts and understanding theoretical perspectives with the ultimate goal of preparing students to integrate them into future coursework.
- To improve the student’s ability to write clearly and read critically.
- To increase the student’s awareness of and appreciation for the role that history plays in forming the present.
- To familiarize the student with the norms of university life.

Required Texts

Coetzee, J.M. *Waiting for the Barbarians*. New York: Vintage, 2004.

Saramago, José. *Seeing*. Translated by Margaret Jull Costa. Orlando: Harcourt, 2006.

Wright, Evan. *Generation Kill: Devil Dogs, Iceman, Captain America, and the New Face of American War*. New York: Berkley, 2004.

All other readings are available on WebCT in PDF.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due at the start of class the date they are due. Any assignments submitted after the start of class or to the drop box will be deemed late. Late assignments are penalized one grade point per day late (e.g., an assignment two days late which merits a grade of A- will be given a grade of B). Extensions will not be granted under any circumstance. Please note that the two short papers, book review, and the final project must be completed in order to pass this course; i.e., failure to submit all three assignments will result in a mark of FND. Plagiarism (see below) will not be tolerated and will result in the matter being referred to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and will most likely result in a failure on the assignment, if not also the course. There are no exceptions to any of these policies. While all grades are subject to approval by the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, provisional marks will be posted to WebCT as they become available.

Participation (2x10%) Ongoing

Marks for participation are contingent upon attendance (which will be taken at the beginning and ending of class; i.e., you must arrive on time and remain for the duration of the class). That is, you must be in attendance in order to participate, however, attendance does not imply participation. As a result, the highest participation mark you can receive is indexed to the number of classes you attend according to the following scheme: Student attended 75% of the classes, thus the highest participation mark the student can receive is 7.5/10 even if the student actively participated in all those classes. Participation means having arrived for class prepared (read the assigned readings more than once; attempted to understand the readings; developed questions about the readings), raising questions and points in class, and responding to questions posed by other students and the instructor. Students are also encouraged to make use of the “discussion board” on WebCT.

Short Papers (2x15%) Due October 14, 2010 and November 18, 2010

Students are required to complete two short papers (about 1500 words). The best way to learn theoretical concepts is to read and write about them. These papers are intended to be short exercises in which the student enquires into the logic of a particular concept, discussing its strengths and weaknesses, and its potential applications. It is expected that papers will extend beyond mere summaries of the readings and will attempt to critically engage with the concepts. Papers must be written in standard English, with proper citations and a bibliography. Any recognized style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc) is acceptable. The first assignment deals primarily with the matter discussed in the lectures on non-modern societies. The second assignment deals with the matter discussed in the lectures on Karl Marx, Emile Durkheim and Max Weber. Both short papers must be submitted in order to pass this course.

Book Review (25%) Variable

Students are asked to write a book review (about 1500 words) on one of the complete books we read in class: viz., José Saramago's *Seeing*, J.M. Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*, or Evan Wright's *Generation Kill*. The book review should address themes and issues raised in this course, but it should also incorporate personal evaluation of the work and original insights. The book review is due one week after the book was discussed in class. This assignment must be submitted in order to pass this course.

Final Group Project (30%) Due April 5, 2011

Individually or in pairs, students will select a cultural product (film, television show, fiction) and provide an analysis of it demonstrating its relation to course themes. Class time will be allotted to working on the project and students will present their project to the class. Details will be worked out in the second semester, but potential areas could include vampires (e.g., "The Southern Vampire Series" of novels and the "True Blood" television series, even the "Twilight" series), apocalypse and salvation (e.g., "The Terminator" franchise or "Battlestar Galactica"), or serial killers (the "Hannibal" movies and novels or "Dexter" novels and television series).

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (page 45), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+	90-100	B+	77-79	C	67-69	D+	57-59
A	85-89	B	73-76	C	63-66	D	53-56
A-	80-84	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-	50-52

ABS Student absent from final exam

DEF Deferred

FND Student could not pass the course even with 100% on the final exam

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website.

Requests for Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss their needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. The deadlines for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the December 2010 exam period is Nov 12, 2010. The deadline for April 2011 examinations is March 11, 2011.

For Religious Obligations Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism? A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FND, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures? All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy. The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students.

Assistance for Students

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC)
Writing Tutorial Services
Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)

Fall 2010

September 9 Introduction

No assigned readings.

September 16 Violence and Exchange in Primitive Societies

Mauss, Marcel. *The Gift: The Form and Reason for Exchange in Archaic Societies*. Translated by W.D. Halls. New York: W.W Norton, 2000. [Chapter 1]

Clastres, Pierre. *Archeology of Violence*. Translated by Jeanine Herman. New York: Semiotext(e), 1994. [Chapter 6]

Clastres, Pierre. *Society Against the State*. Translated by Robert Hurley. New York: Zone Books, 1987. ["Of Torture in Primitive Societies"]

September 23 Sacrificial Violence

Callois, Roger. *Man and the Sacred*. Translated by Meyer Barash. Glencoe, Il.: The Free Press, 1959. [Chapter 1]

September 30 Revenge, Ordeals and Torture

Miller, William Ian. *Eye for an Eye*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006. [8-16, 109-29]

October 7 States of Nature

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Edited by Edwin Curley. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1994. [Chapter 8]

Locke, John. *The Second Treatise of Government: An Essay Concerning the True Original, Extent, and End of Civil Government*. In *John Locke: Two Treatises of Government*, edited by Peter Laslett, Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1960. [Chapter 2]

Montesquieu, Charles de Secondat. *The Spirit of the Laws*. Edited by Anne M. Cohler, Basia Carolyn Miller and Harold Samuel Stone. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1989. [Book 1]

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques. *On the Social Contract*. In *Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Basic Political Writings*, edited by Donald A. Cress, 141-227. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1987. [Book 1, Chapters 1-3]

October 14 Master/Slave

Hegel, G.W.F. *Phenomenology of Spirit*. Translated by A.V. Miller. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1977. [111-9]

October 21 Marx

Marx, Karl. "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts." In *Karl Marx: Early Writings*, edited by T.B. Bottomore. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1964. [120-34]

Marx, Karl. "'Preface' to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*." In *Marx: Later Political Writings*, edited by Terrell Carver, 158-62. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1996.

October 28 Durkheim

Durkheim, Emile. "Two Laws of Penal Evolution." *Economy and Society* 2, no. 3 (1973): 285-308.

November 4 Weber

Weber, Max. *Economy and Society*. Edited by Guenther Roth, and Claus Wittich. 2 vols. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978. [53-56, 212-6, 311-25, 809-15]

November 11 Nietzsche

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morality: A Polemic*. Translated by Carol Diethe. Edited by Keith Ansell-Pearson. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994. [Second Essay]

November 18 Freud

Freud, Sigmund. *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Edited by James Strachey. Vol. XXI, *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. London: The Hogarth Press, 1961.

November 25 Foucault

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Vintage Books, 1995. [Part 3, Chapter 3]

December 2 To Be Determined

No assigned readings (at this time).

Winter**January 6 Animals**

Darnton, Robert. "Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin." In *The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History*, 75-104. New York: Basic, 1984.

January 13 From Torture and Execution to Incarceration

Hay, Douglas. "Property, Authority and Criminal Law." In *Albion's Fatal Tree: Crime and Society in Eighteenth Century England*, 17-63. Edited by Douglas Hay et al. New York: Pantheon, 1975.

Langbein, John H. *Torture and the Law of Proof*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977. [27-44]

January 20 Piracy in the Golden Age

Hill, Christopher. "Radical Pirates?" In *The Collected Essays of Christopher Hill: Volume 3, People and Ideas in 17th Century England*, 161-87. Brighton: Harvester, 1986.

January 27 Career Centre**February 3 Library**

February 10 Emergencies

Saramago, José. *Seeing*. Translated by Margaret Jull Costa. Orlando: Harcourt, 2006.

February 17 Resistance and Refusal

Melville, Herman. "Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street." In *The Piazza Tales and Other Prose Pieces, 1839-1860*, edited by Harrison Hayford, Alma A. MacDougall, and G. Thomas Tanselle, 13-45. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1987.

Film: "Office Space"

February 24 Winter Break**March 3 Barbarians**

Coetzee, J.M. *Waiting for the Barbarians*. New York: Vintage, 2004.

March 10 Modern War

Wright, Evan. *Generation Kill: Devil Dogs, Iceman, Captain America, and the New Face of American War*. New York: Berkley, 2004.

March 17 Undead

Vargas, Miguel. "Dead Serious: Evil and the Ontology of the Undead." In *The Undead and Philosophy: Chicken Soup for the Soulless*, edited by Richard Greene and K. Silem Mohammad, 39-52. Peru, Ill.: Open Court, 2006.

Yuen, Wayne. "The Bloody Connection Between Vampires and Vegetarians." In *The Undead and Philosophy: Chicken Soup for the Soulless*, edited by Richard Greene and K. Silem Mohammad, 129-41. Peru, Ill.: Open Court, 2006.

Film: "28 Days Later"

March 24 Presentations**March 31 Presentations**