

POLI 110DA: Freedom & Discipline: Political Thought in the 20th Century

Winter 2011

MWF 9:00-9:50

Professor Adam Gomez

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Teaching Assistant:

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Syllabus

This course examines the response of the Western intellectual tradition to the radical shocks of the 20th century, including two world wars, industrial and technological transformations, the globalization of the capitalist system, and the collapse of imperialism. Focuses of the course include changing ideas about justice, democracy, the self, morality, the state, and the legitimacy of force. The canon of 20th Century thought has not yet been settled, and the thinkers in this course are meant to present a picture of the ways in which politicians and intellectuals struggled to respond to a century of advancement and horror.

Course grades will be based on two 5-7 page essays (30% each) and one in-class final (40%).

Course texts available at the bookstore

Max Weber, *The Vocation Lectures*

Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*

Albert Camus, *The Plague*

Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man*

Jean Genet, *The Balcony*

Additional readings marked with an asterisk (*), as well as all other course documents, can be found on the course website:

adamgomez.wordpress.com/teaching/poli110dawi11.

I. The Crisis of Liberal Democracy

1/3 Introduction, William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming" (1919)*

1/5 Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" (1918, 1921)

1/7 Weber, continued

1/10 Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political* (1927, 1932)

1/12 Schmitt, continued

1/14 Schmitt, continued

II. Violence and Liberation

1/17 *Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, no class*

1/19 Vladimir Illyich Lenin, "What Is To Be Done?"* (1902)

1/21 Lenin, continued, **Paper 1 assigned**

- 1/24 Mahatma Gandhi, *Satyagraha in South Africa* (1928) XI-XIII, The "Quit India" speeches (1942)
- 1/26 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from Birmingham Jail," "I have a Dream" speech* (1963)
- 1/28 Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961); I-IV, Conclusion. **Paper 1 due**
- 1/30 Fanon, continued
- 2/2 Fanon, continued

III. Morality, Justice and Freedom After the War

- 2/4 Albert Camus, "Neither Victims Nor Executioners" (1946)*
- 2/7 Albert Camus, *The Plague* (1947)
- 2/9 Camus, *The Plague*, continued
- 2/11 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949); Introduction, I-V, XI, XXV, Conclusion
- 2/14 Beauvoir, continued, **Paper 2 assigned**
- 2/16 Beauvoir, continued
- 2/18 Michael Oakeshott, "Rationalism in Politics" (1962)*
- 2/21 *President's Day, no class*
- 2/23 John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness: Political not Metaphysical" (1985)*
Paper 2 due

IV. Culture, Power, and Image

- 2/25 Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man* (1964)
- 2/28 Marcuse, continued
- 3/2 Marcuse, continued
- 3/4 Marcuse, continued
- 3/7 Jean Genet, *The Balcony* (1957)
- 3/9 Genet, continued
- 3/11 Feodor Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor"* (1880)
- 3/16 Final Exam, 8:00 am**

All dates on course schedule are approximate, reality will no doubt intrude. This course adheres to all university standards for academic honesty, and all papers must be submitted to turnitin.com in order for credit to be received (academic honesty code can be viewed here: <http://infopath-1.ucsd.edu/catalog/front/AcadRegu.html>) Both papers and the final exam must be completed to receive a passing grade.