

POWER AND RESISTANCE

FALL 2009

Professor Bruce Podobnik

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Office Hours: Mon, Wed, & Frid, 12-1pm (consult my online calendar for other meeting options)

Course Overview

This course examines dynamics of contestation between social movements, corporations, and political authorities. We begin with a review of important theoretical frameworks, including: the structuralist approach, the social network approach, and analyses that emphasize culture and processes of identity formation. We then engage in a comparative analysis of movements that have tried to achieve social change using a variety of tactics in different regions of the world. Throughout the semester, connections between local and global processes are examined.

Course Requirements

- 1) Class participation (15% of final grade). Students are expected to actively engage in regular classroom discussions. Attendance and performance on reading quizzes will also be reflected in this grade. Repeated absences will hurt your grade.
 - 2) Participation in Student-Led Discussion (5% of final grade). Student groups will be assigned to lead discussions on specific days, about recent events related to specific course topics.
 - 3) Mid-term exam (20% of final grade). There will be an in-class mid-term examination in this course. Students must take the exam on its assigned day, with exceptions requiring prior approval.
 - 4) Research Paper, First Draft (15% of final grade). Your research paper must be 12-15 pages in length, and must conform to my guidelines for written work (see end of syllabus).
 - 5) Peer Review Work on Research Paper (5%). Each student is required to provide a detailed review of a draft of another student's paper.
 - 6) Research Paper, Second Draft (20% of final grade). This second draft must reflect substantial improvement, based on comments from a student peer and the professor.
 - 7) Final exam (20% of final grade). There will be an in-class final exam in this course. Students must take the exam on its assigned day, with exceptions requiring prior notification and approval.
- *Additional instructions on all these requirements will be provided in class.

Required Readings

- 1) *Ideas for Action*. Cynthia Kaufman.
- 2) *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*. Vijay Prashad.
- 3) *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements (3rd Edition)*. James DeFronzo.
- 4) *Where Vultures Feast*. Ike Okonta and Oronto Douglas
- 5) *Terror and Consent*. Philip Bobbitt.
- 6) *McMafia*, by Misha Glenny.
- 7) *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire*. Cynthia Enloe.
- 8) *The Open Road: The Global Journey of the Fourteenth Dalai Lama*. Pico Iyer
- 9) *Social Movements for Global Democracy*. Jackie Smith.

Mon, Aug. 31

Course Introduction

Wed, Sept. 2

The Quest for Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality

Kaufman. *Ideas for Action*, pp. 1-56.

Frid, Sept. 4

The Structuralist Approach

Kaufman. *Ideas for Action*, pp. 57-82, 211-226.

Mon, Sept. 7

****LABOR DAY (NO CLASS)****

Wed, Sept. 9

Corporations and States in the Capitalist World-System

Kaufman. *Ideas for Action*, pp. 83-120, 227-250.

Shannon. Section from *Introduction to the World-System Perspective*, reading provided by professor.

Frid, Sept. 11

The Social Networks Approach

Halpern. Section from *Social Capital*, reading provided by professor.

Mon, Sept. 14

Race, Gender, and Identity Politics

Kaufman. *Ideas for Action*, pp. 121-208.

Wed, Sept. 16

The Media, Discourse Analysis, and Social Change

Kaufman. *Ideas for Action*, pp. 251-268.

Powell. "How Conservatives use Language to Dominate Politics," reading provided by professor.

Cohen. "Why the Democrats Need to Stop Thinking about Elephants," reading provided by professor.

Frid, Sept. 18

Report on Recent Events: Social Conflict and Social Media

Student-Led Discussion #1.

Mon, Sept. 21

Socialization in the Police and Military

Crank. "Understanding Police Culture," reading provided by professor.

McNamara. "The Socialization of the Police," reading provided by professor.

Grossman. "On Killing," reading provided by professor.

Wed, Sept. 23

Tensions Within Social Movements

Kaufman. *Ideas for Action*, pp. 269-304

Clark, "Debate on Non-Violence Between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr." reading provided by professor.

Frid, Sept. 25

Social Change in the Developing World I

Prashad. *The Darker Nations*, pp. 3-94.

Mon, Sept. 28 **Social Change in the Developing World II**
Prashad. *The Darker Nations*, pp. 95-190.
***Research paper proposal due.**

Wed, Sept. 30 **Social Change in the Developing World III**
Prashad. *The Darker Nations*, pp. 191-281.

Frid, Oct. 2 **Class Discussion and Review**

Mon, Oct. 5 ****MIDTERM EXAM****

Wed, Oct 7 ****IN-CLASS MOVIE (TO BE ANNOUNCED)****

****FALL BREAK (OCT. 8-11)****

Mon, Oct. 12 **Revolutionary Movements I**
DeFronzo. *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*, pp. 1-82.

Wed, Oct. 14 **Revolutionary Movements II**
DeFronzo. *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*, pp. 83-188.

Frid, Oct. 16 **Revolutionary Movements III**
DeFronzo. *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*, pp. 275-358, 409-416.

Mon, Oct. 19 **Report on Recent Events: New Revolutionary Challenges**
Student-Led Discussion #2.

Wed, Oct. 21 **Resistance in Nigeria I**
Okonta and Douglas. *Where Vultures Feast*, pp. 1-95.

Frid, Oct. 23 **Resistance in Nigeria II**
Okonta and Douglas. *Where Vultures Feast*, pp. 96-205.

Mon, Oct 26 **Terrorist Movements I**
Bobbitt. *Terror and Consent*, pp. 3-84
***First draft of research paper due.**

Wed, Oct. 28 **Terrorist Movements II**
Bobbitt. *Terror and Consent*, pp. 85-124, 397-426

Frid, Oct. 30 **Terrorist Movements III**
Bobbitt. *Terror and Consent*, pp. 484-546

Mon, Nov. 2 **Report on Recent Events: New Terrorist Challenges**
Student-Led Discussion #3.
***Peer review of research paper due.**

Wed, Nov. 4 **Criminal Networks I**
Glenny. *McMafia*, pp. xiii-96.

Frid, Nov. 6 **Criminal Networks II**
Glenny. *McMafia*, pp. 211-346.

Mon, Nov. 9 **Feminist Analyses I**
Enloe. *The Curious Feminist*, pp. 1-95.

Wed, Nov. 11 **Feminist Analyses II**
Enloe. *The Curious Feminist*, pp. 99-189.

Frid, Nov. 13 **Feminist Analyses III**
Enloe. *The Curious Feminist*, pp. 193-305.

Mon, Nov. 16 **Non-Violent Strategies of Resistance I**
Iyer. *The Open Road*, pp. 5-107.

Wed, Nov. 18 **Non-Violent Strategies of Resistance II**
Iyer. *The Open Road*, pp. 143-255.

Frid, Nov. 20 **Report on Recent Events: Conflicts Over Tibet**
Student-Led Discussion #4.

Mon, Nov. 23 ****IN CLASS MOVIE (TO BE ANNOUNCED)****
Second draft of research paper due.

Wed, Nov. 25 ****NO CLASS****

****THANKSGIVING BREAK (NOV. 26-29)****

Mon, Nov. 30 **Fighting for Global Democracy I**
Smith. *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, pp. 3-62.

Wed, Dec. 2 **Fighting for Global Democracy II**
Smith. *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, pp. 65-130.

Frid, Dec. 4 **Fighting for Global Democracy III**
Smith. *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, pp. 133-198.

Mon, Dec. 7 **Fighting for Global Democracy IV**
Smith. *Social Movements for Global Democracy*, pp. 199-242.

Wed, Dec. 9 **Class Discussion and Review**

FINAL EXAM DATE: Saturday, Dec. 12, 1-4pm, in regular classroom.

College as a Professional Occupation

I expect all of your class-related behavior to be professional in nature. Work must be turned in on time, appointments must be kept, discussions must be respectful of everyone, etc. Each time you fail to live up to these expectations, your grade will be reduced.

On the Use of Email

In-person communication is almost always better than email communication. I therefore ask that you do the following: 1) Before sending an email, consider if you can instead ask a question in class or in my office. 2) Before sending an email, proof read carefully to fix grammar and tone issues. Emails should reflect well on your professionalism; 3) Do not expect a rapid response. A number of days may go by before I get a chance to answer your email.

On Class Attendance

I take attendance right at the beginning of class. If you are late, you may miss important announcements. It is okay to miss two classes during the semester, but every additional absence reduces your participation grade. *Please do not email me about why you miss class or are late, either before or after the fact.* If you wish to minimize the number of points taken off, you can give me documentation (from a health center, sports coach, or other formal institution) in class.

Turning Work in on Time

It is unfair to grant extensions to individual students, when others have turned their work in on time. Therefore, I take points off on any assignment that is turned in late, for whatever reason. *Please do not email me about why assignments are late, either before or after the fact.* If you wish to minimize the number of points taken off, you can attach documentation (from a health center, sports coach, or other formal institution) to the back of your paper.

On Cell Phones and Laptops

I keep track of students whose cell phones ring in class, and this reduces a person's class participation score. I only allow the use of laptops in class with a documented accommodation request.

Getting Assistance and/or Special Accommodation During the Course

I encourage you to contact me if you are having difficulties with the course material or assignments. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there is anything I can do to make your experience in this course more positive for you. I am also very happy to work with students who are in need of special accommodations. If you anticipate needing special accommodations, contact the Student Support Services Office to discuss your situation. That office will then contact me, and we can take appropriate action to make sure all your needs are accommodated.

Policy on Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism are very serious infractions, and are dealt with severely in this course! I expect you to understand and abide by the College's Academic Integrity Policy, which may be found in the Pathfinder (www.lclark.edu/~stlife). This policy prohibits any form of cheating on exams or written assignments. It also prohibits plagiarism, so be certain to properly cite all information that you use in your papers. If you haven't already done so, take the tutorial on how to avoid plagiarism available here:

<http://library.lclark.edu/reference/plagiarism/index.htm>

Grading Scale

On all assignments turned in for my courses, student are given percentage grades that are at the very end of the semester combined to generate a final course percentage grade. The following percentage scores, along with some comments, describe my grading system.

Percent Range	Grade	Comments
100 - 95	A	Given for work that not only meets all expectations, but also contains an impressive level of insight and effort.
94 - 90	A-	Given for work that not only meets all expectations, but also contains some unique elements of insight and effort. <i>You will have to work very hard, and go beyond the stated requirements of the assignment or course, to receive an A-</i> .
89 - 87	B+	Given for very good work that meets all expectations.
86 - 84	B	Given for work that meets most expectations, but contains some problems.
83 - 80	B-	Given for work that meets some expectations, but contains numerous problems.
79 - 77	C+	Given for work that is passing, yet somewhat problematic.
76 - 74	C	Given for work that is passing, yet quite problematic.
73 - 70	C-	Given for work that is passing, yet very problematic.
69 - 0	D/F	Given for unsatisfactory work.

Keep Multiple Copies of all Your Work

No credit can be given for any course work that is lost (by you or me) or rendered un-retrievable because of computer problems. Always keep a duplicate copy of your paper or any other course work in a safe place (such as Webdisk). Keep extra copies of all your assignments until after the semester ends and you have received your official grades from the Registrar's Office.

Formatting Requirements for Written Work

- 1) Always put your name, my name, and the course title on the first page of your paper.
- 2) Do not insert double-returns between paragraphs.
- 3) Unless I request it, do not turn assignments in with report covers.
- 4) Use 1 inch margins, a normal font size, and double-spacing on each page.
- 5) Do not use small fonts or single spacing, as this makes it hard to insert comments.
- 6) To save paper, please use double-sided printing if you can.
- 7) Print out your papers yourself. I only accept emailed papers in limited cases.

Ten Suggestions to Keep in Mind When Writing Papers/Reports

- 1) Give your paper an interesting, dynamic title.
- 2) Begin your paper with an engaging introductory paragraph. Make the reader really want to read your paper.
- 3) In the second or third paragraph of your paper, insert an overview statement that clearly describes what your paper is about and gives the reader a sense of what is coming.
- 4) In general, use normal language in your papers. Avoid the use of overly-complicated phrases or jargon.
- 5) Make sure that every sentence in your paper is very straight-forward and clear. Avoid run-on sentences.
- 6) Organize your ideas carefully. Make sure that every sentence flows smoothly from the previous one.
- 7) Carefully construct your paragraphs. Make certain all sentences in a paragraph are connected to one another.
- 8) In general, do not begin or end paragraphs with quotations from sources.
- 9) Avoid relying on over-generalizations. Whenever possible, refer to specific cases and evidence to build your arguments. Acknowledge circumstances that do not fit overall generalizations.
- 10) End your paper with a strong conclusion. Leave the reader with something intriguing to think about.

The "Three Error" Rule

I will allow up to three basic grammatical or style errors to slide without penalizing you. However, I will deduct one percentage point from your final paper grade for every subsequent basic error of grammar or style. In other words, if I was going to give you a 90 percent on your paper, but I identified thirteen basic grammatical/style errors, you will receive an 80 percent (which is obviously a severe blow to the grade). Basic grammatical errors include: incorrect spelling; incorrect punctuation; incorrect verb agreement; sloppy paragraph construction; run-on sentences; convoluted sentences; passive constructions; and other errors.

Keeping Track of Papers for Letters of Recommendation

I am often asked to write letters of recommendation for students. I am able to write a more useful, detailed letter, if you can provide me with titles and brief summaries of papers you wrote in my class. So, I encourage you to keep a permanent record of titles/summaries of papers you wrote in my classes. You will then be able to consult this record years later, when you want a letter of recommendation. This is a good thing to do for your other classes, too.

Additional Formatting, Citation, and Style Instructions

I prefer that students use the APA citation format. Before asking me about formatting, citation, or grammatical questions, please consult the following books:

- 1) Harris, Muriel. *The Writer's FAQs: A Pocket Handbook*.
- 2) Williams, Joseph. *Style: Basics of Clarity and Grace*.