Politics & Film  
(On-Line)  
Priscilla Southwell (psouth@uoregon.edu)  
Summer 2016 (June 20 – August 11)

Political content tends to saturate many films, in both explicit and implicit ways. A primary goal of this class will be to examine the political relevance of films, as they relate to actual political events and developments. The required films are grouped by broad thematic categories, from the United States and various other countries. Starting from these examples, this course aims to characterize film as an especially apt medium for illustrating, defending, challenging, and engaging political ideas.

OFFICE HOURS: 12:30-2 MW or by appointment (805 PLC)

REQUIRED TEXT:  

SCHEDULE OF FILM SHOWINGS, AND ASSIGNED READINGS:  
Note: You must procure these films on your own and watch them at your own pace. Keep in mind that you may have to rent or buy the following movies, in some cases, but many of these films are available in the UO Knight Library, in your local library, on YouTube, or on Netflix.

QUIZ #1:

a) Violence of a Different Sort
*In the Heat of the Night* (USA, 1967, 109”); *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (USA, 2012, 130”)

b) Environmental Activism or Terrorism?
*If a Tree Falls* (USA, 2011, 85”); *The East* (USA, 2013, 116”)

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 1-4.

QUIZ #2:

a) Politicians
*Milk* (USA, 2008, 129”); *The Candidate* (USA, 1972, 110”)

b) Conflict (Political & Personal)
*The Company You Keep* (USA, 2012, 121”)
*Trumbo* (USA, 2015, 124”)

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 5-8.
QUIZ # 3:

a) Individual against the State – Germany and Chile

b) Individual against the State – Cuba and Kenya

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 9-12.

QUIZ # 4:

a) Individual against the State – Ireland
*The Crying Game* (UK, 1992, 111“); *In the Name of the Father* (USA, 1993, 133“)

b) Scandal and Corruption
*Inside Job* (USA, 2010, 108“)
*Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer* (USA, 2010, 117 “)

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 13-16.

FINAL EXAM:
This exam will cover the entire book and all of the required films.

EVALUATION
You will have to complete all quizzes, and the final exam or final paper by August 11, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. However, you may proceed at your own pace; you could take three quizzes in one week or one per week, and even complete this course in a few weeks or a month. This is your choice.

QUIZZES – There are four quizzes in this class – each covering four required films and 4 chapters in the textbook. All quizzes will be taken on-line via CANVAS. The quizzes are all contained within the folder called “Quizzes.” Fifty percent (50%) of your grade for the class will be based on these quizzes, all taken on-line via CANVAS. You will have 30 minutes to take each quiz, and you may re-take this quiz once, and the highest grade will be recorded. There are 25 multiple choice questions per quiz, but your second attempt may have different questions, as they are randomly picked from a larger test bank. These scores will then be averaged.

FINAL EXAM OR FINAL PAPER

Option 1: Final Exam
Due to new mandatory security requirements, the final exam (worth 50% of your grade) must be taken in a setting where someone will check your ID and monitor your taking of the test. On-campus students will take their final exam at the SSIL Labs in McKenzie 445. Off-campus students in Portland have the opportunity to test at the White Stag Building. All other students that are not in Eugene or even the United States...
will have to obtain a “Remote Proctor.” Information on how to do this will be sent to all students and is available on the CASIT website under “Off Campus Students.” You will only have ONE chance to take this final exam. There will be 75 multiple choice questions, and you will have 90 minutes to complete this exam.

Option 2: Final Paper
Instead, you may opt out of the final exam and write a 7-10 page paper. This paper must be submitted through Veracite on the CANVAS website for this class. The topic of this paper may be of your own choosing, but must pertain directly to one of the required films and analysis from Projecting Politics. A critique of the analysis offered in this book is certainly acceptable, but not required. A paper guidelines sheet will be available on CANVAS.

Grading Scale:

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TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- You will need regular access to a competent computer with web access.
- **No incompletes** can be given for this course due to its web-based nature. If you do not complete a quiz for any reason, you will receive a “0.” If you have trouble accessing any quiz, please contact me immediately.
- All quizzes and the final exam must be completed by 11:59 p.m., August 11th.
- Please email me with any questions from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and I will respond within 24 hours.

CLASS WEB SITE:

- **CANVAS** This web site is the main web site used for this class. All class information will be run through this website.
- **Quizzes and Final Exam or Paper** – all due August 11th by 11:59pm.

The quizzes can be found in CANVAS under the tab “Quizzes.” You will be given 30 minutes to take each quiz. After completing the test, please make sure you press the submit button about 30 seconds before the 30 minute time limit because it takes the system about that long to process your quiz. You have two attempts to take each quiz. You will receive the highest grade. You are not required to take the quiz two times. You must finish the quiz within the time allotted or you will not get a grade. If for some reason you lose a connection, you can use your second attempt to take the quiz again.
PLEASE NOTE: It is a violation of the UO Student Conduct Code to open the required textbook or other materials during a quiz, collaborate or consult with another person during a quiz, share questions or answers with others, print out the quiz, or use a quiz or quiz answers provided by another person, or to pay another person or organization to assist you in taking these quizzes. If you engage in any of these activities even once, your grade for all the quizzes will be a zero, which will make it essentially impossible to pass the class.