

MUWR 7/24-8/17
12-1:50

DRAFT

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PS 347
POLITICAL POWER, INFLUENCE, AND CONTROL
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“Who governs?” “Who actually runs things?” These questions about power are the most basic of political questions. This course will show how answers to such questions cannot be simply empirical, cannot simply focus on the “facts” of the matter. Before we can study facts, we need to figure out what counts as an exercise of power – in other words, what’s going to be included (and excluded) in a study of power.

The course is organized around four different conceptions of power. These range from the narrow view that we can identify power only when one party prevails over another in a public disagreement to the expansive view that all the ways in which we are socialized count as manifestations of power. Analyzing these views involves thinking about a number of related issues. These include the definition of interest: Are people the best judges of their own interests or can we fail to recognize our “real” interests? Also relevant is the question of intentions: Must the exercise of power be intentional or can power be exercised unintentionally?

The course is organized to combine theoretical discussions of the four views of power with case studies illustrating each view. The case studies cover politics in New Haven, Conn. in the 1950s, air pollution control in the fifties and sixties, the UMW union from the nineteenth century through the 1970s, and several Connecticut elementary schools today. The case studies are assigned with the purpose of showing how the various conceptions of power work out when applied to the real world. By the conclusion of the course, students should be able to critically analyze claims about the distribution of power, locally and nationally. Due to its emphasis on different conceptualizations of power, the course falls within the “Political Theory” subfield of the undergraduate curriculum in Political Science.

Required Books

Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*, 2nd ed.

Robert Dahl, *Who Governs?: Democracy and Power in an American City*

John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*

Materials on Canvas

Course

Requirements

Midterm exam: 8/3

Final exam: 8/17

Optional paper: due 8/23 by 5 PM

No make-up examinations will be given without an excuse, which must be approved in advance (except in extreme circumstances). Excuses will only be approved for medical or family emergencies.

Grading

The midterm and final examinations are required of all students. You may choose to write an optional paper in addition. Assignment weights are as follows.

(1) midterm (40%) + final (60%)

OR

(2) midterm (30%) + paper (25%) + final examination (45%)

Academic Misconduct: The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct. By way of example, students should not give or receive (or attempt to give or receive) unauthorized help on assignments or examinations without express permission from the instructor. Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g., quotations, paraphrases, ideas), using the editions assigned in this course and, as appropriate, other sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the student's obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students. Selling, preparing, or distributing, for any commercial purpose, course lecture notes or video or audio recordings of any course is prohibited unless explicitly permitted by the course instructor in writing.

Course Outline and Assignments

Lecture outlines and PowerPoints are posted on Canvas; these serve as study guides for the examinations.

7/24 **I. Introduction**

Lukes, *Power*, 1.1 and 1.5-1.6 (pp. 14-16, 29-38)

Recommended: pp. 74-85

7/25- **II. One-Dimensional View**

7/27 Lukes, *Power*, p. 29 and 1.2 (pp. 16-19)

Dahl, *Who Governs?*, ch. 1 (pp. 1-8)

Dahl, *Who Governs?*, chs. 2, 6-7, 19 (pp. 11-24, 63-86)

Dahl, *Who Governs?*, chs. 10, 15, 19 (pp. 115-40, 184-89, 223-28)

Dahl, *Who Governs?*, chs. 8, 12, 14, 24-25, 26 (part), 27-28 (pp. 89-103, 163-65, 181-83, 271-301) (recommended: chaps. 27-28, pp. 305-25)

Bachrach and Baratz, *Power and Poverty*, pp. 11-16 (Canvas)

7/31- **III. Two-Dimensional View**

8/2 Lukes, *Power*, 1.3 (pp. 20-25)

Crenson, *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution* (Canvas), preface, ch. 1 (pp. vii, 1-34)

Crenson, *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution*, ch. 2 (pp. 35-82)

Lukes, *Power*, 1.7 (pp. 44-48)

Crenson, *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution*, chs. 3-4 (pp. 83-131)

Crenson, *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution*, ch. 7 (pp. 177-84)

8/3 Midterm examination

8/7- IV. Three-Dimensional View

8/9 *Matewan* (movie)

Lukes, *Power*, 1.4, 1.7-1.9 (pp. 25-29, 38-59)

Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*, preface, chs. 1-2 (pp. v-xi, 3-44)

Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*, chs. 3-4, pp. 47-121

Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*, ch. 6, pp. 137-50, 161-64; ch. 7, pp.165-201;
ch. 10, pp. 252-61

Lukes, *Power*, pp. 124-34

8/10- V. Disciplinary Power

8/15 Foucault, "Lecture Two" and "Truth and Power," in *Power/Knowledge* (Canvas), 8/9
pp. 93-133

Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. I, pp. 94-97 (Canvas)

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Canvas), Part I, ch. 1, pp. 3-12, 27-31; Part III, ch. 2,
pp. 170, 181-94; Part IV, ch. 3, pp. 307-8

Lukes, *Power*, pp. 88-99

Hayward, *De-Facing Power* (Canvas), pp. 1-10, 72-75, 106-7, 135-45, 173-78

Lukes, *Power*, pp. 103-107

Recommended: Peter Digeser, "The Fourth Face of Power," *The Journal of Politics* 54
(1992): 977-1007.

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8/16 VI. Conclusion: Power Reconsidered

Lukes, *Power*, pp. 12-13, 61-74, 108-51

8/17 Final examination (in class)

8/23, 5 PM Optional paper due (submit to Canvas & VeriCite)