

Case Western Reserve University
POSC 334
Comparative Political Violence

Professor Pete W. Moore

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Office Hours: Tuesday 230-330, Wednesday 12-130pm (Mather House 219)

This course is designed to comparatively examine different historical and political contexts of violence. Students will engage in collaborative research projects as well as individual writing assignments to explore variation in the sources and effects of this type of violence. The course begins by exposing students to some of the classic philosophical tracts on power, conflict, and identity and then moves to historical case studies. Students will be organized into groups to represent and simulate actual political and social actors in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and North America. These groups will present to the class their organization's goals and resort to violence. The rest of class will then critically question the players to illuminate motives and ambiguities.

Assigned Texts

- o Neve Gordon, *Israel's Occupation* (University of California Press, 2008)

Grades and responsibilities

Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings. Grading is comprised of four components:

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| 1. | Course papers (3x) | 45% |
| 2. | Participation and Attendance | 15% |
| 3. | Simulations | 30% |

LECTURES AND SIMULATIONS

****Please turn off mobile phones**

****More than two unexcused absences from class will result in failure.**

****Lap tops may only be used in class for note taking. Please see me for permission**

Week 1 Introduction, Concepts of Power: In the first part of the course we will examine general approaches to the concepts of power, social order, and violence. Gain an understanding of how each author defines the subject, the problem, and the argument.

1/13-15 Thomas Hobbes, *The Leviathan*, "Relations Among Sovereigns"

Week 2 Modern Power, Violence, and the State

1/20-22 Hanna Arendt, "On Violence"
James Scott, "Behind the Official Story"
Michel Foucault, "The body of the condemned"

Week 3 **The War on Terror: A defining element of American foreign policy and its influence on global politics has been the post-9/11 war on terrorism. How is terrorism defined as a form of political violence and why are these definitions important?**

2/3-5 Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism* (Columbia University Press, 1998), 13-44
Benjamin Netanyahu, "Defining Terrorism," in *Terrorism: How the West Can Win*, edited by Benjamin Netanyahu (Farra, Straus, Giroux, 1986), pp.7-15.
Grenville Byford, "The Wrong War," *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2002), pp. 34-43.
Film: *Battle of Algiers*

Week 4: Origins of the War

2/10-12 Ian Lustick, *Trapped in the War on Terror* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006), 1-70
Fouad Ajami, "The Sentry's Solitude," *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2001)

Week 5 Political and Cultural Impacts of the War

2/17-19 Kal Raustiala, "Offshoring the war on Terror," in *Does the Constitution Follow the Flag?* (Oxford University Press, 2009).
Dana Priest and William Arken, "Top Secret America: A Hidden World, Growing Beyond Control," *Washington Post*
Melani McAlister, "A Cultural History of the War Without End," *The Journal of American History*

Week 6 *Black Sunday*

2/24 Film: *Black Sunday*

2/26 *Simulation, Paper 1 Due*

Week 7 **Palestine-Israeli Conflict: The next case study focuses on one of the world's most protracted conflicts. Aside from gaining background on the conflict, this section will explore how occupation and violence has shaped Palestine and Israel.**

3/2 *Professor Beinlin Talk, 4:30*

3/3-5 Neve Gordon, *Israel's Occupation*, pp. 1-70

Week 8 **FALL BREAK**

Week 9 **Occupation and Violence**

3/17-19 Gordon, pp. 70-169
James Ron, "Savage Restraint: Israel, Palestine, and the Dialectics of Legal Repression"
Social Problems (November 2000)

Week 10 **Violence and Identity**

3/24-26 Yezid Sayigh, "War as Leveler, War as Midwife: Palestinian Political Institutions, Nationalism, and Society Since 1948," in *War, Institutions, and Social Change in the Middle East*, edited by Steven Heydemann, University of California Press, 2000
Joel Migdal,

Week 11 **Occupation and Separation**

3/31-4/2 Gordon, pp. 169-225
Film

4/3 *Paper 2 Due*

Week 12 **Intervention: This last case study investigates external intervention in the context of ongoing political violence.**

4/7-9 Michael Barnett and Jack Snyder, "The Grand Strategies of Humanitarianism"
Jon Western and Joshua Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age," *Foreign Affairs*, Nov-Dec. 2011
Samantha Power A problem from Hell, Intro and Rwanda

Week 13 **Problems and Limits of Intervention: Iraq**

4/14-16 Benjamin Valentino, "The true costs of Humanitarian Intervention," *Foreign Affairs*, (Nov-Dec. 2011)
Richard Betts, "The Illusion of Impartial Intervention," *Foreign Affairs* (1994)
Jason Brownlee, "Can the US Nation Build?" *World Politics*

Week 14 **Current Cases of Intervention: Syria and Iraq**

4/21 Ann Marie Slaughter, "How to Halt the Slaughter in Syria," NYT
Paul Staniland, "Should We intervene in Syria," Monkey Cage
Mouin Rabbani, "Origins of the Un-Islamic State,"

4/23 *Simulation*

Final Paper Due May 4, 3pm.