

POWER AND LEGITIMACY
CAS IR 546, Spring 2015
Tuesday/Thursday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., EPC 205
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SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

The course is focused on various political theories and their role in forging the world of today. Relevant primary sources will provide the framework for an inquiry into the relationship between power and legitimacy and the manner in which elites use ideas and ideologies not as metaphysical schemes but as instruments.

The course explores several assumptions, namely, that our history is the history of the continuous replacement of elites, and that the central question of all political systems is: "Who is going to rule and why?"

GENERAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Attendance (obligatory)
- b. Active participation (20 percent)
- c. Class presentation (20 percent)
- c. Midterm examination (30 percent)
- d. Final examination (30 percent)

The course will be conducted in a lecture-and-discussion form and will meet twice a week. Familiarity with assigned texts is essential. Attendance and active course participation are required. Please come prepared to be challenged.

The midterm and final examinations follow the take-home format. Each should be five pages long, double-spaced. You should feel free to discuss the assignments with your friends and I would strongly encourage you to use any book or article you believe to be relevant for your essay. However, you must then sit down and write your own text, clearly distinguishing between ideas that are yours, and those you have heard from someone else, read in another publication, or seen on the Internet.

IMPORTANT DATES

First lecture	20 January 2015
Last day to add the course	2 February 2015

Last day to drop the class without a "W"	24 February 2015
Midterm examination hand-out	26 February 2015
Midterm examination hand-in	5 March 2015
Final examination hand-out	30 April 2015
Final examination hand-in	9 May 2015

OFFICE HOURS

I am available for consultations during my office hours every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. I am also always happy to speak with you before and after each lecture. If you are unable to see me during my office hours, I will make a prompt arrangement for us to meet as soon as possible.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES

No incomplete grades will be reported unless the student has presented a plausible explanation why the coursework cannot be finished on time. The student will then fill in a form requesting an incomplete grade; this will include a written commitment to satisfy the outstanding obligations by a specific date.

CODE OF CONDUCT

No eating or drinking in the classroom. If you wear a baseball hat, take it off for the duration of the class. Please turn off your cell phones.

All students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. In your coursework please provide citations for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source. Boston University has strict standards for intellectual integrity. Punishment for plagiarism may be severe, and can include expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/policies/academic-conduct-code/>

GRS students, please consult <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/graduate/grs-forms-policies-procedures/academic-discipline-procedures/>

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Boston University accommodates students with disabilities in conformance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Requests for disability accommodations should be made

to Disability Services, 19 Deerfield Street, Boston, MA 02215; 617-353-3658 (Voice/TTY). Students seeking accommodations should submit relevant medical documentation and comply with the policies and procedures of Disability Services.

Assigned Texts

1. Plato, *The Republic*
2. Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor"
3. Spinka, *Jan Hus*
4. Machiavelli, *The Prince*
5. Le Carré, *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*
6. Hobbes, *Leviathan*
7. Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
8. Milosz, *The Captive Mind*
9. Chesterton, *The Man Who War Thursday*
10. Lukes, "The Tukhachevsky Affair"
11. Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*
12. Havel, *The Power of the Powerless*
13. Kołakowski, "Hope and Hopelessness,"
14. Kołakowski, "Postrevolutionary hangover"

Topics

Topic 1	Who shall govern? By what right?
Topic 2	Socrates and the <i>Daimonion</i>
Topic 3	The role of education in Plato's <i>Republic</i>
Topic 4	The Grand Inquisitor: the truth is the end of the world
Topic 5	The essence of good government: miracle, mystery, authority
Topic 6	Jan Hus: the doctrine of two swords
Topic 7	Jan Hus: a spark that spread into a flame
Topic 8	Machiavelli. A cynic?
Topic 9	Machiavelli. A moralist?
Topic 10	<i>The Spy Who Came in From the Cold</i> , Golitsyn, Nosenko, and Ames
Topic 11	Hobbes: <i>Homo homini lupus est</i>
Topic 12	Hobbes: the poet of order
Topic 13	Jan Amos Comenius
Topic 14	The French Revolution
Topic 15	Burke <i>contra</i> metaphysical schemes in politics
Topic 16	Hegel: <i>Herr und Knecht</i>
Topic 17	Marx: Prometheus?
Topic 18	Marx: Procrustes!
Topic 19	Lenin: Of course we have failed . . .
Topic 20	Miłosz's <i>Ketman</i> and <i>The Man Who Was Thursday</i>
Topic 21	Miłosz: the Pill of Murti Bing
Topic 22	<i>Malleus Maleficarum</i> and the Witch Trials
Topic 23	Stalin vs. Tukhachevsky: The totalitarian mind in action
Topic 24	Kovaly's "Cruel Star"
Topic 25	Havel and his greengrocer
Topic 26	Havel: how ideology steals power from power itself

- Topic 27 The Apolitical Politics: Plastic People of the Universe
- Topic 28 Kołakowski: "Hope and Hopelessness"
- Topic 29 Kołakowski: "The post-revolutionary hangover"