

CAS IR 546

**POWER AND LEGITIMACY**

Spring 2014

Tuesday/Thursday 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

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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 (10 percent)
- c. Midterm examination (35 percent)
- d. Final examination (55 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.

## **GRADUATE STUDENTS**

In addition to the course requirements listed above, all graduate students must also make a short presentation on a topic agreed upon with the instructor. Please come and see me as soon as possible.

## **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. and again from 3:30 p.m. to 4:10 p.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 to see you 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. 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/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

First lecture	16 January 2014
Last day to drop the class without a "W"	20 February 2014
Midterm examination hand-out	27 February 2014
Midterm examination hand-in	6 March 2014
Last day to drop the class with a "W"	28 March 2014
Last lecture	1 May 2014

Final examination hand-out  
Final examination hand-in

1 May 2014  
9 May 2014

## 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 Was Thursday*
10. Lukes, "The Tikhachevsky 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 *Daimonion*
- Topic 3      The role of education in Plato's *Republic*
- 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     *The Spy Who Came in From the Cold*, Golitsyn, Nosenko, and Ames
- Topic 11     Hobbes: *Homo homini lupus est*
- Topic 12     Hobbes: the poet of order
- Topic 13     Jan Amos Comenius
- Topic 14     The French Revolution
- Topic 15     Burke *contra* metaphysical schemes in politics
- Topic 16     Hegel: *Herr und Knecht*
- Topic 17     Marx: Prometheus?
- Topic 18     Marx: Procrustes!
- Topic 19     Lenin: Of course we have failed . . .
- Topic 20     Miłosz's *Ketman* and *The Man Who Was Thursday*
- Topic 21     Miłosz: the Pill of Murti Bing
- Topic 22     *Malleus Maleficarum* and the Witch Trials
- Topic 23     Stalin: 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"