

Power, Authority, and Conflict

R.Wagner-Pacifici
Fall 1994

Course Description

Books have been ordered for this course at the College Bookstore. Other readings, books and journals, are on Honors Reserve (under the seminar "Political Sociology") in the library. Please do all required reading each week. Read closely and take notes for discussion. There will be a midterm and a final examination. The following have been ordered: *Power/Knowledge*, Michel Foucault *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Hannah Arendt *Formations of Violence*, Allen Feldman *The Moro Morality Play: Terrorism as Social Drama*, Robin Wagner-Pacifici *Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made*, Eugene Genovese *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, Benedict Anderson

Background reading: These books will provide a brief overview of some of the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of this course. I encourage you to read them (or similar works). Terence Hawks, *Structuralism and Semiotics*, Chapters 1,2,4 Christopher Norris, *Deconstruction: Theory and Practice*, Chapters 1,2,4,5 Paul Bove, "Discourse," in *Critical Terms for Literary Study*, Frank Lentricchia and Thomas McLaughlin, eds.

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Classical statements on the development of the political sphere and on historical modes of leadership

Karl Marx, "The Communist Manifesto" and Part 1 ONLY of "On the Jewish Question" Both are found in the Marx-Engels Reader, Robert Tucker, ed.

Max Weber, "Politics as a Vocation" and "The Types of Authority and Imperative Coordination," in From Max Weber, Gerth and Mills, eds.

Recommended: Renato Rosaldo, "Subjectivity in Social Analysis" (xerox)

Week 2 - Formations of power

Talcott Parsons, "On the Concept of Political Power," in *Politics and Social Structure*

Michel Foucault, *Power/Knowledge*, Chapters 1,3,5-8

Recommended: Dreyfus and Rabinow, Michel Foucault: *Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneu* 143-226.

Week 3 - Relations between polity and society

Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Chapters 10 and 11. Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, Chapters 1 and 9.

Week 4 - Ideology versus structure

Theda Skocpol, *States and Social Revolutions*, Introduction and Chapter 1.

William Sewell, "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case," *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 57, pp.57-85.

Theda Skocpol, "Cultural Idioms and Political Ideologies in the Revolutionary Reconstruction of State

Power: A rejoinder to Sewell," Journal of Modern History, Vol. 57, pp.86-96.

Recommended: Alexis de Tocqueville, The Old Regime and the French Revolution
- George Rude, Ideology and Popular Protest

Weeks 5 and 6 - Nations and States

Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism
Liah Greenfeld, Nationalism, Chapter 5, "In Pursuit of the Ideal Nation: The Unfolding of
Nationality in America, pp. 397 - 484.

Hannah Arendt, The Origins of Totalitarianism, Chapters 6 and 7

J.M. Coetzee Waiting for the Barbarians

Michael Taussig, The Nervous System, Chapter 7 "Maleficium: State Fetishism."

Weeks 7 and 8 - Politics and the State

Pelizza da Volpeda, "Quarto Stato." In-class analysis

Frances Fox Piven, "Women and the State: Ideology, Power and the Welfare State," (xerox)

Nancy Hartsock, Money, Sex and Power: Toward a Feminist Historical Materialism, Chapters 9 and 10

Perry Anderson, "The Antinomies of Antonio Gramsci," New Left Review, #100.

Frances Fox Piven and Richard Cloward, Poor People's Movements, Chapters 1,4,5.

Week 9 - The State and the Law

Eugene Genovese, Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slave Made, selected chapters

James Anderson, "Aunt Jemima in Dialectics: Genovese on Slave Culture," Journal of Negro History,
#61, 1976

Catherine MacKinnon, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State, Part III.

Weeks 10 and 11 - Terrors and Violence

Thomas Sheehan, "Myth and Violence: The Fascism of Julius Evola and Alain de Benoist," in Social
Research, 48:1.

Robin Wagner-Pacifici, The Moro Morality Play: Terrorism as Social Drama, Chapters 1,4,6.

Allen Feldman, Formations of Violence, Chapters 1,2,5.

Elaine Scarry, The Body in Pain, Chapter 1, "The Structure of Torture."

A model Amnesty International letter.

Bernardo Bertolucci "The Conformist."

Week 12 - The Political other

Art Spiegelman, Maus

James Clifford, The Predicament of Culture, "Being Indian in Mashpee."

Thomas Mann, "Mario and the Magician," in Death in Venice and Other Stories.

Leni Reifenstahl, "The Triumph of the Will,"

Weeks 13 and 14 - Talking power: microanalyses

George Orwell, A Collection of Essays, "Politics and the English Language."

David Bogen and Michael Lynch, "Taking Account of the Hostile Native: Plausible Deniability and the
Production of Conventional History in the Iran-Contra Hearings," Social Problems, Vol. 36, #3.

Harvey Molotch and Diedre Boden, "Talking Social Structure: Discourse, Domination and the Watergate
Hearings," American Sociological Review 1985, Vol. 50

Oliver North, Testimony before the Senate/House Joint Committee on Iran-Contra affair. Anita Hill,

Testimony before Senate Judiciary Committee on Clarence Thomas confirmation hearings.