

POL S 555: Citizenship, Exclusion & Political Violence

(Offered jointly with 405)

Fall 2021, Thurs. 1:30-4:20, SMI 109

Professor Rebecca U. Thorpe

Smith Hall 221C, bthorpe@u.washington.edu

Hours: Wed. 12-1:30 & by appointment

Course Description

This course examines the bounds of citizenship and methods of exclusion in the US as well as other comparative contexts. Our primary focus is on the legal, political and coercive mechanisms employed to expand and restrict rights of citizenship, both historically and in contemporary political life. While we will investigate various mechanisms of incorporating and excluding politically marginalized groups, the readings will emphasize the use of racial, gendered and state violence, including lynching, incarceration, sexual subordination, militarization and aggressive immigration control. Our goal is to identify the ways in which laws interact with private and state violence to maintain the political and economic order, preserve patriarchal values and uphold racial hierarchies. As an overarching question, we will consider when political violence is a means to exploit cheap, surplus labor, acquire new territory or preserve the status of the male breadwinner, and when political violence becomes a process of extermination.

Course Materials

Hannah Arendt. 1951. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. Houghton Mifflin.

*Margot Canaday. 2011. *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America*. Princeton University Press.

*Colin Gordon. 2019. *Citizen Brown: Race, Democracy & Inequality in the St. Louis Suburbs*. University of Chicago Press.

Elizabeth Hinton. 2021. *America on Fire: The Untold History of Police Violence and Black Rebellion Since the 1960s*. W.W. Norton.

*Ashraf Rushdy. 2012. *American Lynching*. Yale University Press.

*Austin Sarat. 2002. *When the State Kills: Capital Punishment and the American Condition*. Princeton University Press.

Robert Self. 2013. *All in the Family: The Realignment of American Democracy Since the 1960s*. MacMillan.

Recommended

*Wendy Brown. 2019. *In the Ruins of Neoliberalism: The Rise of Anti-Democratic Politics in the West*. Columbia University Press.

*Judith Butler. 2020. *The Force of Nonviolence: An Ethico-Political Bind*. Verso.

*Michael McCann and George Lovell. 2020. *Union by Law: Filipino American Labor Activism, Rights Radicalism & Racial Capitalism*. University of Chicago Press.

*Mae Ngai. 2004. *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*. Princeton University Press.

*Stuart Schrader. 2019. *Badges Without Borders: How Global Counterinsurgency Transformed American Politics*. University of California Press.

*Ebook available at UW libraries

Assessment for 555 students

Discussion/Participation (25%): Participation/ discussion and weekly post about the readings due 10am the day of the seminar.

Oral presentation (15%): Students will also be asked to lead the discussion for one class meeting. This will involve preparing introductory and integrative comments about the readings for that date and facilitating discussion.

1-page research proposal (10%): Research plan for final paper due in week 6.

Final paper (50%): Students will write a 15-page paper on a subject related to course content. Preliminary outlines are due in week 6 (Nov 4). We will discuss your work in-progress during week 9 (Dec 2). Final papers are due on December 16.

Assessment for 405 students

Discussion/Participation (20%): Participation/discussion and weekly post about the readings due 10am the day of the seminar.

Oral presentation (20%): Students will also be asked to lead the discussion for one class meeting. This will involve preparing introductory and integrative comments about the readings for that date and facilitating discussion.

1-page research proposal (10%): Research plan for final paper due week 6.

Final paper (50%): Students have the option of doing the 15-page paper or submitting two shorter papers (7 pages, 30% each). Paper prompts will be distributed during weeks 5 and 10.

Face Coverings & Social Distancing

The health and safety of the University of Washington community are the institution's priorities. Until otherwise stated, **face coverings are required** per [UW COVID Face Covering Policy](#): indoors where other people are present and outdoors when keeping a 6-foot distance may not be possible. **This includes all classrooms and buildings/public spaces on each of the three UW campuses.**

If you physically can't wear a mask, you choose not to wear a mask, your mask isn't appropriate/sufficient, or if you aren't wearing a mask properly (covering both your nose and mouth), you **cannot** be in the classroom and will be asked to leave. If you have a medical condition or health risk as outlined in the UW COVID face covering policy you may request an accommodation. Please contact Disability Resources for Students office **before going to class** at uwdrs@uw.edu.

Please review the [UW Environmental & Safety policy](#) for information regarding proper face coverings and compliance with social distancing protocols.

Your Physical & Mental Health

Your physical and psychological health takes precedence over everything that we are doing in class. Given this continued uncertainty about new covid-19 variants and shifting health/safety protocol, open communication with me will be crucial. Please let me know ASAP if you are experiencing difficulties related to illness, financial challenges, family circumstances or any other hardship. I will make every effort attempt to make appropriate accommodations so that can succeed in this class while prioritizing your physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

Accommodations

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with Disabilities Support Services (DRS), uwdrs@uw.edu. If you have established academic accommodations with DRS, please discuss this with me so we can make appropriate arrangements.

Religious Accommodations

Washington state law requires that UW develop a policy for accommodation of student absences or significant hardship due to reasons of faith or conscience, or for organized religious activities. The UW's policy, including more information about how to request an accommodation, is available at Religious Accommodations Policy (<https://registrar.washington.edu/staffandfaculty/religious-accommodations-policy/>). Accommodations must be requested within the first two weeks of this course using the Religious Accommodations Request form (<https://registrar.washington.edu/students/religious-accommodations-request/>).

Course Outline

**Working papers, articles and chapters are available on Canvas.*

Sept 30 - Foundations: National Sovereignty & Citizenship

- Judith Shklar, 1989, "American Citizenship: The Quest for Inclusion," *The Tanner Lectures on Human Values*, p. 387-439.*
- Michael McCann and Feliz Kahraman. "Beyond the Binary: On the Interdependence of Liberal and Illiberal/Authoritarian Forms in Racial Capitalist Regimes." Working paper.*

Oct 7 - Racial Violence & the Political Order

- Ashraf Rushdy, *American Lynching*, pp. 22-154
- Paul Frymer. 2014. "A Rush and a Push and this Land is Ours: Territorial Expansion, Land Policy & US State Formation," *Perspectives on Politics* 12: 119-144.*

Oct 14 –Expropriation & Extraction

- Colin Gordon, *Citizen Brown*
- Grace Reinke, "Social Reproduction as Political Resistance: Case Studies from US Politics in an Age of Extraction," Dissertation Prospectus.*

Oct 21 – Policing, Punishment & the Politics of Rebellion

- Elizabeth Hinton, *America on Fire*
- Stuart Schrader, *Badges Without Borders*, Intro, Chapter 1*
- JP Anderson, "A Third Front? Post-Ferguson America & Global Prison Disproportionalities," Dissertation Chapter.*

Oct 28- Social Identity & The Politics of the Family

- Robert Self, *All in the Family*, Prologue, Ch. 1-2, 4, 7, 10-12, Epilogue
- Wendy Brown, *In the Ruins of Neoliberalism*, Intro, Chapter 5*

Nov 4- Sexuality & Citizenship ***Reschedule/Time & Date TBD

- Margot Canaday, *The Straight State: Sexuality and Citizenship in Twentieth Century America*
- Chelsea Moore, "The Constitutional Development of a Legal Limbo: Sex Offense Laws and the Civil Legal System," Working Dissertation Chapter.*

**Research Proposal Due*

Nov 11 – Deportation & Disposability *** Reschedule/ University Holiday

--Mae Ngai. "Deportation Policy and the Making and Unmaking of Illegal Aliens," and "From Colonial Subject to Undesirable Alien," in *Impossible Subjects**

--Michael McCann and George Lovell, *Union by Law*, Chapter 1*

--Judith Butler, *The Force of Nonviolence*, Intro, Chapter 3*

Nov 18 – From Exploitation to Extermination

--Hannah Arendt, *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, Chapters 9-10, 12-13

Nov 25 – University Holiday

Dec 2 – Discussion of research-in-progress

Dec 9 – The Power to Kill

--Austin Sarat, *When the State Kills: Capital Punishment and the American Condition*, Ch. 1-5

--Jennifer Driscoll, "Territoriality, Fear and Violence: Stand Your Ground as Contemporary Settler Colonialism," Working Dissertation Chapter.*