

Department of Political Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Winter 2000

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Political Science 402

Topics in Political Theory:

RESISTANCE, CIVILITY, AND POLITICS

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-5:30 p.m., G115 Angell Hall

Sections: PS 491, section 2 (Friday 10-11 a.m.), section 3 (Fridays 11-noon), 3443 Mason Hall

Resistance has long occupied an ambiguous place in modern political thought: while recognized as a basic right to be invoked in the face of tyranny, actual acts of resistance have typically been treated as illegitimate if not criminal in most situations. Recently, however, both passive and active resistance have become part of the landscape of “normal” political thought and practice. In part, as a result, the boundaries of political life have expanded considerably, with many formerly “personal” issues now becoming subjects of political debate and action--and of continuing resistance.

This course will explore the history of these developments and inquire into the challenges and dilemmas presented by new resistance practices. The course will be divided into four segments. The first unit will introduce the concept of resistance and tentatively explore some problems associated with resistance politics in contemporary America. The second segment will sketch a short history of civility and of the role of resistance in a civil polity. In the third unit, the legacy of resistance during the Second World War will be investigated. Finally, the last segment of the course will return to the problems of the contemporary era, in order to re-examine them in more depth. Readings will include some “classics” of modern Western political thought, as well as texts in other genres and from other traditions.

Despite what the *Course Guide* may still say, this winter’s PS 402 is a 4-unit course that satisfies the advanced writing (or ECB) requirement. The course will meet every week for 3 hours of lecture, T-Th 4-5:30 p.m., and for an additional hour of section. The lecture periods will include some full-class discussion, as indicated on the following schedule. Two section times are available: Fridays from 10-11 and from 11-noon. Enrollment in the course will be restricted to 50, with up to 25 in each section. Section attendance is mandatory; participation in section will account for 15% of the course grade.

Course and section meetings are brief, so be on time. Expect to stay for the whole period, focusing on coursework throughout. As a courtesy to all, please turn off any pagers or telephones that you may carry while in class. Note that this entire syllabus is subject to revision at the instructor’s discretion.

Course Requirements

Course requirements include the following:

- Four short papers of approximately 5 pages each on assigned topics (73%);
- Complete drafts of each paper (12%);
- Participation in section, which may include discussions, workshops, and peer evaluations (15%);
- Participation in full-class discussions and on-line activities may earn additional extra credit (up to 3%).

For a complete explanation of course requirements, consult the following schedule and see the last page of the syllabus.

Required Readings

The following books contain many of the required readings. They are available for purchase at Michigan Book & Supply, the Michigan Union Bookstore, and Ulrich's Bookstore. Please use the assigned edition. All readings will also on reserve at the Shapiro Undergraduate Library soon.

Edward Abbey, *The Monkey Wrench Gang* (Avon, 1997)

Jean Bethke Elshtain, *Democracy on Trial* (Basic Books, 1995)

John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, ed. James H. Tully (Hackett Publishing, 1983)

Isabelle de Charrière, *Letters of Mistress Henley Published by Her Friend* (MLA, 1993)

Mahatma Gandhi, *Mahatma Gandhi: Selected Political Writings*, ed. Dennis Dalton (Hackett Publishing, 1996)

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Anti-Semite and Jew* (Schocken Books, 1995)

Martin Evans, *The Memory of Resistance: French Opposition to the Algerian War (1954-1962)* (Berg, 1997)

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction* (Vintage Books, 1990)

SCHEDULE OF MEETING, TOPICS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note: The reading and writing assignments listed are to be completed *before* coming to class, unless otherwise noted.
 An asterisks (*) indicates e-reserve reading at: <http://www.lib.umich.edu/libhome/Reserves/W00/PS402>
 The Elias reading (+) is available in the Reserve Room or as a coursepack at Dollar Bill Copying, 611 Church St.

DATE	TOPIC/ASSIGNMENT
Thurs., 6 Jan.	<u>Introduction to the Course</u>
Fri., 7 Jan.	<u>Introduction to the Section</u>
 I. PROBLEMS OF RESISTANCE, CIVILITY, AND POLITICS	
Tues., 11 Jan.	<u>Individual Moral Resistance and the State: Modern Paradigm</u> Reading: *Henry David Thoreau, "On the Duty of Civil Disobedience," in <i>Walden, or Life in the Woods</i> (Signet Classic/NAL, 1980), pp. 222-40.
Thurs., 13 Jan.	<u>A Different Resistance? The Case of Contemporary Deep Ecology</u> Reading: Edward Abbey, <i>The Monkey Wrench Gang</i> , pp. 1-188.
Fri., 14 Jan.	<u>Discussion</u>
Tues., 18 Jan.	<u>"Stopping the Machine" and Political Responsibility</u> Reading: Abbey, <i>Monkey Wrench Gang</i> , pp. 189-387. *Dave Foreman, "EARTH FIRST!" reprinted in <i>Ideals and Ideologies: A Reader</i> , eds. Terence Ball and Richard Dagger (HarperCollins, 1991), pp. 402-409.
Thurs., 20 Jan.	<u>Is Civic Public Life in America Decaying?</u> Reading: Jean Bethke Elshtain, <i>Democracy on Trial</i> , pp. xi-xvii, 1-63. Writing: First essay topics distributed on-line by Friday morning, 21 January.
Fri., 21 Jan.	<u>Discussion</u> On-Line: Post a one-paragraph abstract summarizing your paper's argument by 10 a.m., Monday, 24 Jan.
Tues., 25 Jan.	<u>On Democratic Civility: Renewal as Responsibility/Small Group Workshop</u> Reading: Elshtain, <i>Democracy on Trial</i> , pp. 65-138; read your group's abstracts. In-Class: You will be assigned to meet in a small group to discuss your abstracts and, if drafted, your papers. Bring 5 copies of your abstract to class.
Thurs., 27 Jan.	<u>Debate and Discussion: What Counts as Legitimate Political Action?</u> Reading: Review Thoreau, Abbey, Foreman, and Elshtain.
Fri., 28 Jan.	<u>Computer Room Session</u> Writing: Complete draft of your first paper (4-5 pages) is due in section. In-Class: Sections will meet in a computer lab, the location of which is to be announced. On-Line: Post a copy of your draft to other members of your small group. Begin commenting on their drafts.

II. A SHORT HISTORY OF CIVILITY AND ITS PROBLEMS

- Tues., 1 Feb. On the History of Civilization and Manners in Europe
 Reading: +Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process: The History of Manners and State Formation and Civilization* (Blackwell, 1994):
 -Ch. 2: "The Sociogenesis of the Concept of Civilization in France," pp. 29-41;
 -Part 2: "Civilization as a Specific Transformation of Human Behavior,"
 Sections I-III, pp. 42-67.
 (If using the Urizen Press edition that is on reserve, read pp. 35-84.)
- Thurs., 3 Feb. Sexuality and Aggression in Historical Perspective
 Reading: +Elias, *Civilizing Process*, Part 2, Sect. VIII-X, pp. 132-68.
 (If using the Urizen Press edition that is on reserve, read pp. 160-205.)
 On-Line: ***Post comments on your small group's drafts by midnight.***
- Fri., 4 Feb. Discussion
- Tues., 8 Feb. Religious Resistance, Toleration, and the Emergence of Constitutional Principles in Europe.
 Reading: John Locke, *A Letter Concerning Toleration*, pp. 23-58.
 Writing: The drafts submitted will be returned with comments by this date.
- Thurs., 10 Feb. Civility and Its Limits: Women in the West
 Reading: Isabelle de Charrière, *Letters of Mistress Henley Published by Her Friend*, pp. xi-xxii, 3-42.
- Fri., 11 Feb. Small Group Workshops
 Writing: ***Bring copies of your rewritten first essay for your small group.***
 In-Class: Small group workshops on your rewritten essays.
- Tues., 15 Feb. Western Dilemmas/Eastern Solutions?
 Reading: Review Elias, Locke, Charrière.
 Mahatma Gandhi, *Mahatma Gandhi: Selected Political Writings*, pp. 3-22.
 Writing: ***Final version of your first paper (4-5 pages) is due in class.***
- Thurs., 17 Feb. Beyond Passive Resistance: Gandhi's Concept of "Satyagraha"
 Reading: Gandhi, *Political Writings*, pp. 29-91.
 Writing: ***Second paper topics distributed.***
- Fri., 18 Feb. Discussion
 On-Line: ***Post a one-paragraph abstract summarizing your second paper's argument by 10 a.m., Monday, 21 February.***
- Tues., 22 Feb. "Swara?": A Liberating Civility?/Small Group Workshop
 Reading: Gandhi, *Political Writings*, pp. 97-151.
 In-Class : Meet in your small group to discuss your abstracts and, if drafted, your papers.
Bring copies of your abstract for your small group to discuss.
- Thurs., 24 Feb. Debate Discussions: Is Civic Resistance Enough?
 Reading: Review course readings so far, especially Elshtain, Locke, and Forman.
- Fri., 25 Feb. Discussion
 Writing: ***Complete draft of second paper (5-6 pages) is due in section.***
 On-Line: ***Post a copy of your draft to other members of your small group by midnight.***

Winter Break

III. DEMANDING ACTION: RESISTANCE AFTER TOTALITARIANISM

- Tues., 7 Mar. Europe in Question: Confronting Fascism and Communism
 Reading: *Jean-Paul Sartre, "The Republic of Silence," reprinted in *Defeat and Beyond: An Anthology of French Wartime Writings, 1940-1945*, eds. Germaine Brée and George Bernauer (Pantheon, 1970), pp. 330-35.
 *Albert Camus, "Part One: The Rebel," in *The Rebel: An Essay on Man in Revolt* (Vintage, 1991), pp. 13-22
- Thurs., 9 Mar. Analyzing Europe: The Holocaust and Fear of Freedom
 Reading: Jean-Paul Sartre, *Anti-Semite and Jew*, parts I-II, pp. 7-58.
 On-Line: **Post comments on your small group's second paper draft by midnight.**
- Fri., 10 Mar. Discussion
- Tues., 14 Mar. Facing Otherness within
 Reading: Sartre, *Anti-Semite and Jew*, parts III-IV, pp. 59-153.
 Writing: Drafts submitted will be returned with comments by this date.
- Thurs., 16 Mar. Revisiting Third World Liberation: Is Violence a Necessity?
 Reading: *Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (Grove Press, 1986), pp. 35-106.
 Suggested: Martin Evans, *The Memory of Resistance: French Opposition to the Algerian War (1954-1962)*, ch. 2, pp. 24-28.
- Fri., 17 Mar. Small Group Workshops
 Writing: **Bring copies of your rewritten second essay for your small group.**
 In-Class: Small group workshops on your rewritten essays.
- Tues., 21 Mar. Why Take Direct Action? The Emergence of Resistance Consciousness in Postwar France
 Reading: Martin Evans, *Memory of Resistance*, pp. 31-100.
 Writing: **Final version of your second paper (5-6 pages) is due in class. Third paper topics distributed.**
- Thurs., 23 Mar. From Gut Reactions to Political Traditions
 Reading: Martin Evans, 101-45, 170-71, 181-96, and 231-33.
- Fri., 24 Mar. Discussion
 On-Line: **Post a one-paragraph abstract of your third paper's argument by 10 a.m., Monday, 28 March.**
- Tues., 28 Mar. Rethinking Resistance Politics (1)
 Reading: *Michael Geyer, "Resistance as Ongoing Project: Visions of Order, Obligations to Strangers, and Struggles for Civil Society, 1933-1990," in *Resistance against the Third Reich, 1933-1990* (University of Chicago Press, 1994), pp. 325-50.
 *James C. Scott, "Domination, Acting, and Fantasy," in *Paths to Domination, Resistance, and Terror*, eds. Carolyn Nordstrom and JoAnn Martin (University of California press, 1992), pp. 55-84.
 Writing: **Topics for fourth paper distributed.**
 On-Line : **Comment on your small group's third paper abstracts by Wednesday, 29 March.**
- Thurs., 30 Mar. Rethinking Resistance Politics (2): Is Radical Resistance Politics or Crime?
 Reading: *James C. Scott, "The Infrapolitics of Subordinate Groups," in *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts* (Yale University Press, 1990), pp. 183-201.
 Review earlier readings, especially Gandhi, Elshtain, Locke, and Forman.
- Fri., 31 Mar. Small Group Workshops
 Writing: **Draft of your third paper (5-6 pages) is due. Bring copies for your group.**
 In-Class: Meet in your small groups to discuss your drafts.

IV. CONTEMPORARY RESISTANCE: ACTS, THEORIES, CONFLICTS

- Tues., 4 Apr. Sexuality and Modernity
 Reading: Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Volume 1: An Introduction*, pp. 3-73.
 Writing: ***Final version of your third paper (5-6 pages) is due in class.***
- Thurs., 6 Apr. Resistance and Power: Deconstructing the Normal
 Reading: Foucault, *History of Sexuality*, pp. 77-159.
 *Selections on recent and contemporary resistance. You will be given a list, and you will choose one on which to write a one-page summary.
- Fri., 7 Apr. Discussion
 On-Line: ***One-page summary of contemporary resistance article is due by 10 p.m., Sunday, 9 April.***
- Tues., 11 Apr. Contemporary Resistance: Multiple Visions/Small Group Workshops
 Reading: *Selections on recent and contemporary resistance.
 Writing: ***Abstract and outline of your final paper is due in class. Bring copies for your small group.***
 In-Class: Meet in your small groups to discuss your abstract and outline.
- Thurs., 13 Apr. Conclusions/Discussion
 Reading: Review your earlier papers and Elshtain's *Democracy on Trial*.
- Fri., 14 Apr. Small Group Workshop
 Writing: ***Complete draft of your fourth paper (5-6 pages) is due. Bring copies for your small group.***
 In-Class: Meet in your small groups to discuss your drafts.
- Date TBA Writing: ***Final version of your fourth paper (5-6 pages) is due.***

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Office Hours/Communication

I will hold regular office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6 p.m. in my office, 1148 Angell Hall (just outside the Sweetland Writing Center and near the door to Tisch Hall). I can also make appointments to see students at other times, in some cases. My office telephone number is 763-1230. Voicemail messages can be left for me at that extension. Notes can be left for me in my mailbox at the Sweetland Writing Center, 1139 Angell Hall. E-mail messages can also be sent to me at:

ps402-dennismc@umich.edu

Extra Credit Assignments

1. You may gain extra credit of up to 2 points on your final grade for writing one-page reaction papers on the readings. These papers should: a) state in summary form what strikes you as the most significant point made or raised by the author; and b) your reaction to the reading. I will grade the papers minimally: plus, check, or minus. They must be written clearly and carefully, but they need neither quote nor cite the text. You will receive credit according to the following formula:

1 point for at least four pluses or some combination of at least six pluses and checks.

2 points for at least six pluses or some combination of at least eight pluses and checks.

The papers will be due no later than the first course meeting after lecture on the text is completed. Late papers will not be accepted, but early ones will be welcome.

2. You may also gain up to 1 extra point on your grade for posting questions or comments having to do with the readings, or with our classroom discussions, on the course website's "Discussion" area. These comments may consist of reactions to topics or questions that I have asked, or they discuss topics or questions that you or other students raise. If you post interesting, substantive comments or questions on seven or more topics, you will receive the extra 1%.

The course website may be found at:

<http://coursetools.ummumich.edu/2000/winter/lsa/polsci/402/001.nsf>

or via the CourseTools student gateway:

<https://my.ummumich.edu/>

Periodically over the term, I will post a running total of the credit received for reaction papers and postings.

Revised 19 January 2000