

Political Science 304.66
Power
Professor Leonard Feldman

Hunter College, Fall 2020
ONLINE
Tues, Fri: 2:10 pm -3:25 pm

Professor Feldman's Contact Information:

Online Office hours:

Tuesday 11am -1 pm: [Zoom link](#)

Friday 3:30-5 pm: [Zoom link](#)
and by appointment

Email: lfeldman@hunter.cuny.edu

This seminar will be devoted to exploring rival theoretical formulations of the concept of power. What is power, and who has power? We will examine issues such as the balance between popular power and institutionalized power, the relationship between the state and economic power, ideological power and the question of “false consciousness” and social science debates concerning the multiple dimensions of power.

Office of Accessibility

Hunter College is committed to ensuring educational parity and accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and/or medical conditions. It is recommended that all students with documented disabilities (Emotional, Medical, Physical and/or Learning) consult the Office of Accessibility located in Room E1124 to secure necessary academic accommodations. For further information and assistance please call 212-772-4857, TTY 212-650-3230.

Incompletes and Credit/No Credit

To be eligible for a grade of incomplete, students must have reached an agreement to that effect with the professor prior to the final exam. No grade of incomplete will be awarded without documentation of a health issue, mental health issue, or some other legitimate obstacle to completing the course in a timely manner. Said health issues can affect either the student or a family member under the student's care. All work must be completed within a year.

In accordance with Hunter College policy, to be eligible for Credit/No Credit students must have completed all assignments and must complete the final paper. The Credit/No

Credit form must be completed prior to the due date of the final paper.

Academic Integrity

Any deliberate borrowing of the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others without clear and specific acknowledgment of the source is intellectual theft and is called plagiarism. It is not plagiarism to borrow the ideas, terms, statements, or knowledge of others if the source is clearly and specifically acknowledged. Students who consult such critical material and wish to include some of the insights, ideas, or statements encountered must provide full citations in an appropriate form. Hunter College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty. The College is committed to enforcing the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity and will pursue cases of academic dishonesty according to the Hunter College Academic Integrity Procedures.

Required texts, available through Akademos and other online sellers:

James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*
John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*
Arlie Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land*
Paul Butler, *Chokehold*

All other readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Format and General Expectations:

This course is **fully online** and will be a mixed discussion/lecture format with a combination of synchronous (live Zoom classes) and asynchronous (Voicethread lectures) course delivery. Therefore regular attendance, careful preparation, and active participation are essential. You must prepare for every class by doing the reading, reflecting upon the course texts, and bringing to our online discussions issues, questions, and passages for discussion. Have the relevant text with you when you watch the lectures and attend classes on Zoom.

Blackboard is the hub for this class, and it's essential that you log in to Blackboard at least every other day. While this syllabus gives you essential information concerning reading assignments and the schedule of classes, it's the Blackboard site where you'll find each week's set of Voicethread lectures, readings not contained in the required books and writing assignments, study questions, and the link for joining our Friday Zoom class.

I will also make use of Blackboard's communication functions to send important email announcements to you. Thus it is very important for you to (a) check Blackboard at least every other day and (b) make sure that the email address that Blackboard has registered

for you is an email address you check regularly. If it isn't, change your email address on Blackboard by clicking "Update Email".

Course Requirements:

This class is graded out of a total of 600 points.

1. Consistent attendance and active participation in lecture and discussion (100 points).

The breakdown of points for class participation are as follows: regular participation in Friday's live class (60 points), participation in Tuesday's lecture (40 points). For Friday's class participation means your attentive presence with camera on and active participation by speaking and through chat. For Tuesday's voicethread lecture participation means watching my lectures and providing a thoughtful comment in response to my prompt.

2. Ten 2 page weekly response papers posted to Blackboard (200 points, 20 points each)

Your response paper is due **Friday at 11 am** and you are encouraged to submit it earlier in the week. **No late papers accepted under ANY circumstances.** If you miss the deadline, you can make it up in 1 of 2 make-up weeks.

3. A 6 page midterm essay (100 points)

The essay will involve comparison and contrast of different theories of power.

Due: Friday October 9th

4. A 15-18 page research paper (200 points)

Due December 16th

This assignment is scaffolded. It contains a series of assignments leading up to the completion of the final paper. You need to complete each of these steps by their due date.

You must consult with me by week 6, a 1 page prospectus is due week 8, an annotated bibliography is due week 12, a detailed outline is due week 14, and you will make a 10 minute Presentation on Zoom Week 15 or 16.

Zoom Individual Consultation: 5 points
One page Prospectus: 15 points
Annotated Bibliography: 30 points
Detailed Outline: 20 points
Presentation: 30 points

Final Paper: 100 points

Weekly Structure of Activities and Assignments

This course is designed as a hybrid of synchronous and asynchronous elements. Each week's activities and assignments will be posted in a single folder on Blackboard. You can access this folder by clicking on "Weekly Coursework."

The basic structure for most weeks involves a Voicethread lecture which you must complete by the end of the day Tuesday and a live class on Zoom which you must attend on Friday. The specifics are as follows:

Sunday: Any electronic readings for the week posted in Weekly Coursework folder.

Monday: Asynchronous voicethread lecture made available in Weekly Coursework folder.

Monday and Tuesday: Complete reading assignment for Tuesday and watch my lecture and submit a comment on Voicethread. To get participation credit for engaging with the Voicethread lecture, you need to complete viewing the entire Voicethread presentation and respond with a comment by 11:59 pm on Tuesday.

Wednesday and Thursday: Complete the reading assignment for Friday, and write a 1-2 page response paper, which you must upload to Blackboard by 11 am on Friday.

Friday: Live (synchronous) class held on Zoom at 2:10 pm. Click on the Zoom link within the weekly coursework folder or click [here](#). We will recap major issues from Tuesday's lecture and readings, as well as discuss the readings for Friday and your responses.

A Note About Technology

Expectations regarding Zoom classes: To the greatest extent possible, please keep your camera on during our live Zoom classes. It's helpful to me to be able to see your reactions. Please mute your microphone when you are not speaking.

A Note About Response Papers

Response papers are not simply a page or two of rambling thoughts. They should be organized, focused, thoughtful, critical, reflective, and questioning. It's best if your response paper is divided into 3 sections.

First section: Introduction and Summary. Provide an overview of the week's readings. What was the main argument of the reading? If we're reading a book, what is the central thesis of the text? If we are reading multiple authors, what is the central

disagreement or area of debate? Then identify the specific topic or issue you want to focus on in the second section. (1/2 page)

Second section: Critical analysis. Select one particular problem, issue, theme or argument in the readings for focused attention. Develop the author's argument, and, if appropriate, compare it to other readings. Here is where you demonstrate *careful and thoughtful engagement with the course readings*. This section can include an evaluation of the reading including criticisms of any shortcomings. (1 page)

Third section: Questions. In a concluding paragraph, raise one or two thoughtful questions about the readings. What issue or problem would you like to discuss further? (1/2 page)

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

I. Who Has Power and what is Power? The three faces/dimensions of Power

Week 1 Introduction

Fri Aug 28: No reading

Week 2: The First and Second “Faces” of Power

Tues Sept 1 Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View* pp. 1-5, 14-19

Fri Sept 4 Peter Bachrach and Morton S. Baratz, “Two Faces of Power”
Lukes, *Power*, pp. 20-25
Crenson, excerpt from *The Un-Politics of Air Pollution*

Response paper 1 due

Week 3: The Third Face of Power: A “Thick” Theory of Hegemony

Tues 9/8 Lukes, pp. 25-29
John Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*, Preface, chpts 1-4

Fri 9/11 Gaventa, *Power and Powerlessness*, chpts 6,7 and 10.

Response paper 2 due

Week 4 Right-Wing Populism: Another case of hegemony?

Tues 9/15 Arlie Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land*

Fri 9/18 No class

Week 5: Competing Perspectives on Power and Resistance in Rural America

Tues 9/22 Hochschild, *Strangers*, continued

Fri 9/25 Wendy Brown, "No Future for White Men"
John Gaventa, "Power and Powerlessness Revisited"

Response paper 3 due

Week 6 A "Thin" Theory of Hegemony

Tues 9/29: James Scott, *Domination and the Arts of Resistance*
Lukes, pp. 124-134

Fri 10/2: Scott *Domination*, continued

Response paper 4 due

Week 7: Domination, Freedom and Agency

Tues 10/6: Clarissa Hayward and Steven Lukes, "Nobody to Shoot? Power, Structure, and Agency: A Dialogue"

Fri 10/9: **Midterm essay due**

Week 8: The Fourth Face of Power: Discipline

Tues 10/13: Peter Digeser, "The Fourth Face of Power"

Fri 10/16 Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Response paper 5 due

Week 9: Disciplinary Power, continued

Tue 10/20: Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* finish.

1-2 page prospectus due Wednesday

Fri 10/23: Nancy Fraser, "Foucault on Modern Power: Empirical Insights and Normative Confusions"

Response paper 6 due

Week 10: From Discipline to Biopower and Control

Tues 10/27: Foucault, Lecture 11, *Society Must Be Defended* and *History of Sexuality, An Introduction* part five

Fri 10/30: Gilles Deleuze, "Postscript to the Societies of Control"

Response Paper 7 due

Week 11: What Kind of Power is Policing?

Tues 11/3: Guillermina Seri, *Seguridad*, chapter 4

Fri 11/6: Paul Butler, *Chokehold*

Response paper 8 due

Week 12: Police and Racial Hegemony

Tues 11/10: Butler, *Chokehold*, continued

Annotated Bibliography due Wednesday

Fri 11/13: Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*, chapter 4

Response paper 9 due

Week 13 Power and Visibility

Tues 11/17: Xavier Marquez, "Spaces of Appearance and Spaces of Surveillance"
(Makeup response paper)

Fri 11/20: Ben Brucato, "Policing Made Visible"

Response paper 10 due

Week 14 Power With/Democratic Resistance as Power

Tues 11/24: Taylor, *From #BlackLivesMatter*, conclusion

Fri 11/25: Clarissa Hayward, "Disruption: What is it Good For?"

(Makeup response paper)
Research Paper Outline due

Week 15: Research Presentations

Tues 12/1: Live class on Zoom

Fri 12/4: Live Class on Zoom

Week 16: Research Presentation

Tues 12/8 Live class on Zoom

Final Research Paper Due December 16th