

Interdisciplinary Programmes

Academic year 2018-2019

Power, State and Violence

DE135 - Printemps - 6 ECTS

Course Description

The course aims at revisiting the notions of violence, power and State through the last two decades' debates in international relations, (political) anthropology and sociology, with a particular focus on the contradictory effects of globalization and its social actors.

In the first part of the seminar, we will examine the (re)shaping of the conceptions of power and some of the (new) forms of national and transnational governmentalities in parallel to the subjectivity of the actors of violence who are putting into question the political and moral order of the State. The contributions of P.Bourdieu and M. Foucault will be center-stage, as well as the Post-Critical International Relations approaches.

In the second part of the seminar, we will focus on two specific aspect of 'violence (mis)management' : on the one side, we will look at different forms of terrorism and of 'State Terrorism' in particular, through forms of State-sponsored Violence (the role of the armed forces and that of human rights abuses, torture in particular).

On the other side, we will study the processes aiming at reconstructing social bonds, collective memory and national unity in context of political transitions. The focus will be on issues related to impunity and on mechanisms for implementing transitional justice in the aftermath of authoritarian regimes in Latin America and Africa.

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Syllabus

1. ORGANIZATION

During the spring 2019, the course will take place each Thursday from 4.15pm to 6.00pm, starting on Thursday the 21st of February.

The course will include both lecture and seminar approaches. Formal lectures will be combined with in-class discussions among and between students and the Instructor. Class discussions will be organized around assigned readings questions. Course lectures will be supplemented by documentaries shown in-class.

Attendance to the sessions of the seminar is compulsory. Students are required to read the compulsory texts before each session.

The seminar is taught primarily in English. Questions and oral presentations, as well as the final papers, may be formulated/written in English or in French.

2. SESSIONS OF THE SEMINAR

Below, the list of topics for each session and the compulsory readings available on the moodle page:

PART 1 – VIOLENCE, POWER AND THE STATE

Session 1 – 21st February

Introduction to the problematic of the seminar

- a) Presentation of the seminar's problematics and of the sessions' contents.
- b) Methods of work and evaluation

Session 2 – 28th February

On Bourdieu, Power and the State

Readings

Session 3 – 7th March

On Foucault and governmentality

Readings:

Session 4 – 14th March

Post-Critical IR Approaches

Guest Lecturer : Dr. John AUSTIN, CCDP-IHEID

Readings:

Session 5 – 21th March

Presentation of texts by students and in-class discussion

Readings

PART 2 – TERRORISMS

Session 6 – 28th March

On the notion(s) of Terrorism: Presentation of texts by students and in-class discussion

Readings

Session 7 – 4th April

State-sponsored Torture : from North Africa to Latin America and back to the Middle East

Screening of the movie and debate : *Death Squads : The French School*

Session 8 – 11th April

"Terrorism" in international law: state terror, non-state actors and counter-terrorism measures

Lecture by Bianca Maganza, TA

Readings:

PART 3 – DEALING WITH A VIOLENT PAST

Session 9 – 18th April

Dealing with the Past during political transitions

Readings:

25th April - EASTER BREAK

Session 10 – 2nd May

States and Transitional Justice

Readings:

Session 11 – 9th May

South Africa, Peru and Morocco as case-studies

Readings:

Session 12 – 16th May

Transitional Justice Processes in Tunisia

Lecture by Dr. Souhaïl Belhadj, CCDP-IHEID

Readings

Session 13 – 23rd May (from 4.15 to 7.30pm)

WRITTEN EXAM IN CLASS

30th May - ASCENSION DAY HOLIDAY

3. EVALUATION AND GRADING

Students will be graded according to their regular attendance, participation in the debates, and texts' critical presentations during the seminar (30%), on the one side, and their written in-class exam (70%) on the other side.

For the written exam, the students will be asked to answer one question (out of three which will be proposed). They will have 3 hours to develop their answers in the form of a short essay of 4 pages maximum. The last session will therefore begin at 4.15pm as usual and last until 7.30pm.

This course is granted 6 ECTS: attendance/participation, presentations of texts during the seminar (3 ECTS) and final exam (3 ECTS). Each ECTS is equivalent to 25-30 hours of work.

Students are specifically referred to the policy on **academic integrity**, as specified by the Institute's rules. Violations of this policy, including all forms of plagiarism, will not be tolerated. The written assignments must represent original work, with use of all resources properly cited. Student assignments will be randomly selected to be checked using software designed to identify academic plagiarism.

ANNEX

THE QARQ (Quote, Argument, Relation, Question) MODEL

Students introducing the texts for the debate will be invited to:

Quote – Cite a couple of sentences from each text which reflects the author(s)' main argument(s).

Argument – synoptically present author's argument in your own language. If relevant, mention which thesis the author is defending and which one he/she is arguing against.

Relation – When possible, connect the argument of the text under discussion with those of the same sessions or texts previously discussed. Show how author's argument supports or undermines argument of other authors. Also when pertinent, connect the argument of the texts with the discourse/analysis provided in the films.

Question – frame a question about the position or consistency of the argument: a) e.g., an issue which the author is silent about, and why this silence, and b) question about a dimension in the text that may not be amply addressed. Ideally, question should be internal to the text.