

Politics 10-141
Power: Economic Class, Sex and Race
Fall, 2009

Dr. Zillah Eisenstein
Office hours: Muller 316
T, Th 11:30-12:30
W 1:30-3:00

And by
appointment

Essential Reading--Books at I.C. Bookstore

C. B. MacPherson. The Real World of Democracy.
Bell hooks. Class Matters
Ted Fishman. China Inc.
Zillah Eisenstein. Against Empire
S. Jeffords and L. Rabinovitz. Seeing Through the Media.
Arundhati Roy. The Cost of Living
Maria Mies. Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale.
Zillah Eisenstein. Global Obscenities.
Toni Morrison. Birth of a Nation'hood.
Howard Zinn. Terrorism and War
Cooper. Pinochet and Me

Optional: Zillah Eisenstein. Sexual Decoys

Course Packet I (listed contents of packet purchased as one unit at bookstore)

Amanda Spake. "A New American Nightmare."
Ackerman and MacEwan. "Energy and Power."
El Salvador: Important Facts and Dates
Dahl, Mills and Sweezy. "On Theories of Power."
"Race or Class?" New York Times Magazine, 1980.
Cynthia Enloe. "Banana's, Bases and Patriarchy."
Cynthia Enloe. "Women and Children: Making Sense of the Persian Gulf
Crisis."
Marcia Gillespie. "A Crime of Race and Sex."
Barbara Smith. "Notes for Yet Another Paper on Black Feminism."

Course Packet II Mohsen Makhmalbaf. "Limbs of No Body".

COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to examine the way power is distributed in the U.S. and its global network along economic class, sexual hierarchy, and racialized lines. This will involve us in discussions about the meaning of power and how it is maintained. Our discussions about power will locate the consequences within the United States as well as Third World nations via the lens of capitalism, patriarchy, and racism. Our discussions will be positioned within a post-cold war, post-Gulf War`91, post-Sept. 11, and Gulf-War `03-to the present framework.

We will attempt to develop ways of conceptualizing and thinking about politics that recognize the international web of power. This will require rethinking the concepts of: nation, domestic vs. international, public vs. private, and the 'new' globalism, etc.

1. What is the relationship between capitalism and democracy? Between capitalism and liberal democracy? Between liberal democracy and democracy? Between capitalism and socialism?

Read: C. B. MacPherson. The Real World of Democracy, ch. 1, 2, 3, 5.
Z. Eisenstein. Against Empire, Ch. 1

Suggested:

C. B. MacPherson. The Life and Times of Liberal Democracy.
Ralph Miliband. The State in Capitalist Society and Marxism and Politics.
Karl Marx. The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 (International Publ.).
J. K. Galbraith. The New Industrial State (Houghton Mifflin Co.).
C. B. MacPherson. The theory of Possessive Individualism (Oxford Univ. Press).
Dye and Ziegler. The Irony of Democracy (Duxbury).
Edwards, et. al. The Capitalist System (Prentice-Hall).
Michael Lerner. The New Socialist Revolution (Dell).
Fallman and Brandt. The Deceived Majority (Transaction).
Kirkpatrick Sale. The Power Shift.
Bertram Gross. Friendly Fascism.
Alan Crawford. Thunder on the Right.
Peter Steinfels. The Neoconservatives.

2. What does the concept "economic class" mean? How is power distributed along these class lines within any one country? within the global network? What is happening to the working class? to the middle class? to the working poor?

Read: Ted Fishman. China Inc. especially the Introduction, and chapters 1 through 6, and 9
Bell hooks. Class Matters
Amanda Spake. "A New American Nightmare." (packet)
Zillah Eisenstein. Global Obscenities, ch. 4.

Suggested:

Henry Braverman. Labor and Monopoly Capital.
Barbara Garson. All the Livelong Day.
Studs Terkel. Working.
George Lukacs. History and Class Consciousness.
Baran and Sweezy. Monopoly Capital.
Alain Tourain. The Post Industrial Society.
Ralf Dahrendorf. Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society.
R. Hamilton. Class and Politics in the United States.
T. B. Bottomore. Classes in Modern Society.
Sennett and Cobb. The Hidden Injuries of Class.
Andrew Levison. The Working Class Majority.
Stanley Aronowitz. False Promises.
Gevigakas and Surkin. Detroit: I Do Mind Dying.
E. E. LeMasters. Blue Collar Aristocrats.
Michael Burawoy. Manufacturing Consent.
Harley Shaiken. Work Transformed: Automation and Labor in the Computer Age.
David Noble. Forces of Production.

3. Theoretical discussion of the meaning of power. What are the contours of the distribution of power--concentrated or dispersed? Consequences of the distribution? Who forms the ruling class in the United States? in the global network? A discussion of the 1974 and 1979 oil crises; the Gulf Wars, etc. Discuss the neoconservative state, the New Right, the 'new' Democrats, and Obama.

Read: Dahl. "Power in New Haven."
Mills. "The Structure of Power in America."
Sweezy. "The American Ruling Class."
Ackerman and MacEwan. "Energy and Power."
Eisenstein. Against Empire, ch. 2
Eisenstein. Global Obscenities, ch. 2.

Suggested:

W. Domhoff. Who Really Rules New Haven?
Robert Dahl. Who Governs? (Yale University Press).
C. W. Mills. The Power Elite (Oxford University Press).
C. W. Mills. White Collar (Oxford University Press).
M. Olsen. Power in Societies (Indiana University).
G. W. Domhoff. Who Rules America? (Spectrum).
G. W. Domhoff. The Higher Circles.
Peter Bachrach. The Theory of Democratic Elitism (Little-Brown).
Richard Parker. The Myth of the Middle Class.
Andreano. Superconcentration/Super Corporation.
Kevin Phillips. The Rich and the Poor.
Barbara Ehrenreich. Fear of Falling.
Tanzer. The Political Economy of International Oil and the Underdeveloped Countries.
Tanzer. The Energy Crisis.
Peter Odell. Oil and World Power.
Christopher Rand. The Case of Big Oil.

4. The Gulf Wars '91 to the present; and post Sept. 11, 2001. Discuss the connections between capitalism, the global network, patriarchy, and imperialism. A discussion of the global imperialist policies of the United States in the Gulf and Afghan Wars and post-Sept. aftermath.

Read: Jeffords and Rabinowitz. Seeing Through the Media, Introd. and articles beginning on pp. 25, 59, 77, 81, 143, 147, 189, 211, 249, 263.
Cynthia Enloe. "Women and Children." (packet)
Cynthia Enloe. "Banana's, Bases and Patriarchy." (packet)
Z. Eisenstein. Against Empire, chap. 1 and 7.
Makhmalbaf. "Limbs of No Body"
Howard Zinn. Terrorism and War
Film: "The War We Left Behind"
Film: "Killing the Children of Iraq"
Film: Kandahar
Film: Fallajuh

Suggested:

H. Schiller et. al. Triumph of the Image: The Gulf War.
Richard Barnet. Globan Reach.
H. Magdoff. The Age of Imperialism (Monthly Review).
Barnet. Roots of War (Penguin).
G. Lichteim. Imperialism.
William A. Williams. The Tragedy of American Diplomacy (Dell).
C. Lindblom. The Intelligence of Democracy (Free Press).
Joyce Kolko. America and the Crisis of World Capitalism.
William A. Williams. Empire as a Way of Life.
Gabriel Kolko. America's Foreign Policy.

5. A discussion of the 1973 coup in Chile as a paradigm case of U.S. imperialism. Discuss post-coup developments under Pinochet. Students will read on developments in post-cold war politics. Does the term imperialism still apply?

Visit <http://www.seas.gwu.edu/nsarchive/> and www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Blum/ChileKHhtml

Read:

Cooper. Pinochet and Me
On El Salvador. Important Facts and Dates (packet)
Arundhati Roy. The Cost of Living
Film: "When the People Awake"
Film: "By Reason or Force"

Suggested:

Salvador Allende. Chile's Road to Socialism.
Regis Debray. Conversations with Allende and the Chilean Revolution.
NACLA Book. The New Chile, 1973 ed.
Zimbalist and Stallings, "Showdown in Chile," Monthly Review, Vol. 25
(October 1973), pp. 1-24.
Paul Sweezy. "Chile: The Question of Power," Monthly Review, Vol. 25
(December 1973), pp. 1-11.
James Petras. "Chile After Allende: A Tale of Two Coups," Monthly
Review, Vol. 25 (December 1973), pp. 12-20.
NACLA. "The Invisible Blockage: Chile," Vol. VII, no. 8, October 1973.
Burns. The End of Chilean Democracy.
Dale Johnson. The Chilean Road to Socialism.
James Petras. U.S. Imperialism and Chile.
Amando Uribe. The Black Book of American Intervention in Chile.
Sweezy and Magdoff (eds.). Revolution and Counterrevolution in Chile.
Diane Katzenberger, ed. First World, Ha, Ha, Ha,

6. Power as it connects and relates to sex and gender. A discussion of oppression in terms of sex as implicated in power relationships. An examination of the historical dimensions of woman's situation in capitalist patriarchy. An examination of the relationship between patriarchy and capitalism and the way this changes over time. A discussion of patriarchy and its racialized aspects.

Read: Maria Mies. Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale.
Zillah Eisenstein. Global Obscenities, ch. 3, 5.
Zillah Eisenstein. Against Empire, chap. 1, 3, 7, 8
Film: "Love Women and Flowers"
Film: "Lip"

Suggested:

Eleanor Flexnor. Century of Struggle (Atheneum).
Altbach (ed.). From Feminism to Liberalism (Shenckman).
Juliet Mitchell. Woman's Estate (Pantheon).
Schulman (ed.). Red Emma Speaks (Vintage).
NACLA. "Toward a Science of Woman's Liberation" (December 1972).
Sheila Rowbotham. Women, Resistance and Revolution (Pantheon).
Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Women and Economics (Harper-Torchbooks).
Hilda Scott. Does Socialism Liberate Women?
Agnes Smedley. Daughter of Earth.
Eli Zaretsky. Capitalism, the Family and Personal Life.
Ann Oakley. Woman's Work.
Margaret Randall. Cuban Women.
Roberta Hamilton. The Liberation of Women: A Study of Patriarchy and

Capitalism.

Lydia Sargent, ed. Women and Revolution.
Hansen and Philipson, eds. Women, Class and the Feminist Imagination.
Michele Barrett. Women's Oppression Today.

7. The connections between power distribution and the system of racism and racialized patriarchy. To explore the inequalities resulting from power relationships in White North America. An examination of the relationships between racism, patriarchy, and capitalism.

Read: Toni Morrison. Birth of a Nation'hood, chs. starting on pp. vii, 3, 31, 97, 273.

Zillah Eisenstein. Against Empire. Ch. 3, 4, 6.

"Race or Class?" New York Times Magazine. (packet)
Marcia Gillespie. "A Crime of Race and Sex." (packet)
Barbara Smith. "Another Paper on Black Feminism." (packet)
Film: "When the Nation Erupts"

Suggested:

Cornel West. Race Matters.
William Wilson. The Declining Significance of Race.
William Wilson. The Truly Disadvantaged.
Shelly Steele. The Content of Our Character.
Stephen Carter. Reflections of an Affirmative Action Baby.
Edsall and Edsall. Chain Reaction.
Angela Davis. Women, Race and Class.
Angela Davis. If They Come in the Morning.
Articles in Black Scholar.
James Boggs. Racism and the Class Struggle.
Winthrop Jordan. The White Man's Burden.
Oliver Cox. Caste, Class and Race.
Gerda Lerner. Black Women in White America.
Eldridge Cleaver. Soul on Ice.
Eldridge Cleaver. Post Prison Writings and Speeches.
Robert Blauner. Racial Oppression in America.
William Tabb. The Political Economy of the Black Ghetto.
John Bracey. Black Nationalism in America.
Robert Allen. Black Awakening in Capitalist America.
Eugene Genovese. Roll Jordan Roll.
Franz Fanon. The Wretched of the Earth.
Franz Fanon. A Dying Colonialism.
Ofari. The Myth of Black Capitalism.
"Perspectives on the Political Economy of Racism," URPE, Vol. 7, no. 3 (Fall 1975).
Jo Durden Smith. Who Killed George Jackson.
George Jackson. Soledad Brother.
Ralph Ellison. The Invisible Man.
La Frances Rodgers Rose (ed.). The Black Woman.
Bell, Parker, Gray-Sheftall. Sturdy Black Bridges.
L. Bethel and B. Smith. Conditions: Five, The Black Woman's Issues 1979.
Herbert Gurman. The Black Family in Slavery and Freedom, 1750-1925.
Jean Noble. Beautiful, Also, Are the Souls of My Black Sisters.
Ntozake Shange. For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When The Rainbow is Enuf.
Bell Hooks. Ain't I A Woman.
Bell Hooks. Black Looks.
Bell Hooks. Talking Back.
Barbara Smith, et. al. And Some of Us Are Brave.

C. Moraga and Anzaldua. This Bridge Called My Back.
Bell Hooks. Feminist Theory: From Periphery to Center.
Alphonso Pinkney. The Myth of Black Progress.
Ezorsky. Racism and Justice.
Patricia Williams. The Alchemy of Race and Rights.
Toni Morrison. Racing Justice, Engendering Power.

Internet Sites that are Useful:

ON GLOBAL

<http://www.mcspotlight.org>
<http://corpwatch.org>
<http://orandon.guggenheim.org>
<http://www.ithac.edu/key>

ON RACE

The Unbearable Whiteness of Being: African American Critical Theory and
Cyberculture.
<http://www.kalital.com/Text/Writing/Whitenes.html>

Bridging the Digital Divide: The Impact of Race on Computer Access and
Internet
use. Good access for blacks is key; especially through educational
opportunity.
<http://www2000.ogsm.vanderbilt.edu/papers/race/science.html>

What it Means to be Black in Cyberspace. Good site.
<http://www.panix.com-mbowen/cz/identity/blakCMC.html>

Cyborg Diaspora: Virtual Imagined Community.
<http://ernie.bgsu.edu/~radhik/sanov.html>

High Technology and Low-Income Communities: Prospects for the Positive Use
of Advanced Information Technology.
<http://web.mit.edu/sap/www/high-low/>

Losing Ground Bit by Bit: Low-Income Communities in the Information Age.
Good.
<http://www.benton.org/Library/Low-Income/>

New Data on the Digital Divide.
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/net2/>

NetNoir.com=20
<http://www.netnoir.com> -- or Keyword AOL: NetNoir (bookmark)

Bringing Technology to the Barrio.
<http://www.latinolink.com/news/news98/0923nbar.htm>