

Joseph Mello
jmello1@depaul.edu
Office Hours: Tu, Th 11:20-12:50; 2:30-4:00
Office: 990 Fullerton, Room 2207

PSC 393
Winter 2017
Levan 403
Tu, Th 1:00-2:30

POLITICS OF RIGHTS

The strongest claim that Americans can make in politics is to say that their rights have been violated, but is it always a good idea to engage in the politics of rights? Rights-claims are defining features of American political and social life, but they are complex and contingent things. This course will challenge you to identify, understand, and critically evaluate how, why, and to what end rights are used in our political world. Particular attention will be paid to social movements that use rights-claims, as well as the various advantages, limitations, and problems that can accompany rights-based political appeals.

MATERIALS

There are four required texts for this course. All of these texts are available for purchase in the university bookstore or online. Additional required readings will be made available on D2L.

Paine, Thomas. 1997. *Common Sense*. Dover Thrift Edition

Alinsky, Saul. 1989. *Rules for Radicals: A Practical Primer for Realistic Radicals*. Vintage Books.

King Jr., Martin Luther. 2010. *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* Beacon Press.

McGirr, Lisa. 2015. *Suburban Warriors: The Origins of the New Right*. Princeton University Press.

GRADING

Reflection Papers (5% each)	20%
Participation and Attendance	25%
Annotated Bibliography	2%
Rough Draft	5%
Presentation	8%
Final Research Paper	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Reflection Papers: Students will be expected to complete 4 short 2-4 page essays reflecting on assigned readings over the course of the quarter. These essays should attempt to synthesize key concepts, and put the readings into a conversation with each other. They must include a thesis

statement which is supported with citations from course material. Hard copies of these essays are due in class on the assigned day.

Participation and Attendance: This class is organized as a student led seminar, and as a result it has a higher than normal participation component. All students will be required to participate regularly in class discussions. You will be expected to come to class having carefully read all required readings, and taken some time to reflect on them. Class time will be used as an opportunity for students to share key insights gained from the readings, and to discuss as a group any questions you may have developed while reading them. Students will receive periodic assessments regarding their level of in class participation throughout the quarter.

Final Research Paper: This course will culminate with you writing a final research paper. Students will work with the professor to come up with a paper topic which engages with a key question or puzzle concerning the “politics of rights,” broadly understood. Papers should be between 10-15 pages in length, and must include citations from at least six *scholarly* sources. You will complete this paper in stages. Students will submit a research proposal with annotated bibliography by February 14th. Rough drafts will be due March 7th, and students will present their work to the class on March 7th- March 9th. The final draft of your paper will be due March 18th.

Late Assignment Policy: Students who miss class for a legitimate reason must inform me in advance, and provide documentation from the Dean of Student’s Office excusing the absence. Students with excused absences may be allowed to make up work without penalty. Otherwise, I will accept late papers up to 3 days after the due date. Late papers will receive a 10% penalty for each day they are late.

Academic Integrity: Any occasion of academic dishonesty, large or small, on *any* assignment, will result in failure for the assignment and/or the entire course and disciplinary action. Work done for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy, which you can review in the Student Handbook or by visiting Academic Integrity at DePaul University (<http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>). Please note that ignorance of prevailing academic conventions or of DePaul’s policies is never an excuse for a violation.

Students with Disabilities: Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul’s Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling you to access accommodations and support services to assist your success. For more information please visit www.studentaffairs.depaul.edu/csd Students are also invited to contact me privately to discuss your challenges and how I may assist in facilitating the accommodations you will use in this course. This is best done early in the term and our conversation will remain confidential.

A Note on Writing: This course requires students to complete a variety of writing assignments. Good writing is a process which takes time— you should never turn in a piece of writing that has not been thoroughly reviewed and revised beforehand. I am happy to discuss written work with you during office hours and will review rough drafts sent to me in advance. If you need additional help with writing assignments you might want to contact the writing center to schedule a face-to-face meeting or get feedback on written work (www.depaul.edu/writing).

January 3 Introduction to the Course

THEORIES OF RIGHTS

January 5 **Myth of Rights**
Rosenberg, "Tilting at Windmills" (**D2L)
Scheingold, "Politics of Rights" pp 3-10; 83-96(skim); 131-148 (**D2L)

January 10 **Instrumental Value of Rights**
Polletta, "Structural Context of Rights" pp 367-392; 401-406 (**D2L)
Frymer, "Acting when Elected Officials Won't" (** D2L)

January 12 **Constitutive Implications of Rights**
Levitsky, "What Rights?" (**D2L)
Kirkland, "Think of the Hippo" pp 397-404; 408-428 (**D2L)

January 17 **Institutions and Rights**
Barnes and Burke, "Making Way" (**D2L)
Albiston, "Bargaining in Shadow of Institutions" (**D2L)

MOBILIZING RIGHTS

January 19 Meyer, "Protest and Political Opportunity" (**D2L)
Reflection Paper 1 Due

January 24 Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals* pp 3-62

January 26 Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals* pp 63-124

January 31 Alinsky, *Rules for Radicals* pp 125-196

RIGHTS, RESENTMENT, AND THE RIGHT

February 2 Mello, "Reluctant Radicals" (**D2L)
Reflection Paper 2 due

February 7 McGirr, *Suburban Warriors* pp 3-53

February 9 McGirr, *Suburban Warriors* pp 111-146; 187-216

February 14 McGirr, *Suburban Warriors* pp 217-273
Annotated Bibliography Due

CASE STUDIES: RIGHTS IN ACTION

- February 16 **American Revolution**
Wood, "The Whig Science of Politics" pp 3-5; 10-13; 28-45 (**D2L)
Reflection Paper 3 Due
- February 21 Paine, *Common Sense* pp 1-58
- February 23 **Movement for Racial Equality**
King, *Where do we go from Here?* pp 1-70
- February 28 King, *Where do we go from Here?* pp 71-142
- March 2 King, *Where do we go from Here?* pp 143-202
- March 7 Student Presentations
Rough Drafts of Final Papers Due
- March 9 Student Presentations
Reflection Paper 4 Due
- March 18 ***Final Draft of Research Paper Due (submit on D2L via dropbox)***