

DePaul University
Legitimacy and Crisis Syllabus
Political Science 236
Spring Quarter 2019

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Course Description:

A crisis is a time when leadership and ideologies falter. It is a time when established standards fall and customary procedures yield unexpected results. It is a time when alternatives, including no choice at all, become calculated risks.

Theodore Lowi
End of Liberalism

The aim of this course is to explore the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of political legitimacy through traditional and contemporary approaches to this topic. To think about questions of legitimacy is to question the very essence of what constitutes the State and challenges us to think about what lies outside of its parameters. In this way, a discussion of legitimacy inevitably will lead to a discussion of political conflict and crisis and related concepts of power, authority, freedom, rebellion, and transformation. In the first part of the course, we will set forth the major tenants of Liberal Discourse and political legitimacy and investigate questions such as, what constitutes political legitimacy, what are the problems associated with the construction of political legitimacy, and under what conditions is political legitimacy eroded? The second part of the course will examine the crisis of legitimacy in modern society and will employ contemporary theories that challenge the so-called *Liberal Project*.

Required Texts:

Murray Edelman, *The Symbolic Uses of Politics*
Patrick Deneen, *Why Liberalism Failed*
Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*
Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*
Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower*

There will also be required reading for the course posted on D2L. Students are responsible for downloading the material from the site and come prepared to discuss the readings in class.

Course Policies and Requirements:

Class Participation

Students will prepare to discuss the readings of the day. The reading load for this course is quite extensive; therefore, students must keep up with the readings if they are to pass successfully this course.

Class participation inherently means that students regularly attend class sessions. For those students who miss class frequently, they will receive an F for class participation. Class participation is worth 10% of the student's final grade and the following rubric will help clarify the meaning of participation:

A=Excellent preparation and attendance. Students, who are always prepared for class, demonstrate their knowledge of the reading assignments, ask provocative questions and apply the reading material in a meaningful ways.

B=Good preparation and attendance. Students who are frequently prepared for class and who frequently demonstrate their understanding of the reading material.

C=Average participation and attendance. Students who occasionally participate and who indicate they have read the assignments but occasionally have misread the text or demonstrate a superficial understanding of the readings.

D=Poor participation. Students who rarely participate in class discussions and who often miss the essential meaning of the assigned readings.

F=No participation. A student who never participates in class discussions.

Writing Assignments

Students will write three short papers, approximately 3-5 pages in length, double-spaced and typed. The writing assignment will comprise 30% of the student's final grade. The nature of the writing assignment may be found on the last page of the syllabus.

Late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each day late, regardless of the circumstances.

Examinations

The Midterm Examination is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 2019. The final examination is scheduled for Monday June 10, 2019 from 11:30-1:45. Both the midterm and final examinations will take the form of essay questions. Details as to the structure and nature of the exams will be discussed in class. The final exam will be cumulative. Make up exams will only be given in the case of an extreme emergency or unusual circumstance; documentation and verification will be necessary.

Learning Disabilities

Students with special learning needs should contact the CSD program for additional assistance. Students are encouraged to discuss any learning issues with the instructor early in the quarter and make the appropriate accommodations.

Grading Criteria

Class Participation:	10%
Midterm Examination:	20%
Three Writing Assignments:	30%
Final Exam:	40%

Plagiarism

The University's **Academic Integrity Policy** in your student handbook defines plagiarism and the sanctions against those students who plagiarize. Plagiarism is a serious offense and may result in possible expulsion from the University. ***Any student who hands in an assignment in which all or part of the words or ideas have been copied from a source--quoted, paraphrased, or summarized--without proper documentation or which have been borrowed from another student will receive a failing grade for the course.***

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Introduction

Monday, April 1

Introduction to the course

Wednesday, April 3

Read Sophocles, *Antigone* (D2L)

Read Max Weber, *The Types of Legitimate Domination* (D2L)

Week 2

Liberalism and Principles of Legitimacy

Monday, April 8

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (D2L)

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government* (D2L)

Wednesday, April 10

Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Social Contract* (D2L)

Week 3

Problems with Liberalism and its Construction of Legitimacy

Monday, April 15

Patrick Deneen, *Why Liberalism Failed*, chapter 1-2

Wednesday, April 17

Deneen, chapters 3-4

Week 4

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, April 22 NO CLASS

Wednesday, April 24

Deneen, chapters 5-7

- Week 5** **Modern Formulations of Power and Authority**
Monday, April 29
Writing Assignment #1 Due
- Symbols and Political Quiescence**
Murray Edelman, *Symbolic Uses of Politics*, pp. 1-72
Wednesday, May 1
Political Leadership and Settings
Edelman, pp. 73-151
- Week 6** **Midterm Examination**
Monday, May 6
Political Language and Mass Responses
Edelman, pp. 152-194
- Wednesday, May 8**
Midterm Examination
- Week 7** **Political Crisis: Freedom as a Psychological Problem**
Monday, May 13
Writing Assignment #2 Due
Read Fromm, chapters 1-3
Wednesday, May 15
Fromm, chapters 4-5
- Week 8** **Political Crisis: Fascism, Populism and Technological Revolution**
Monday, May 20
Read Fromm, chapter 6
Read Clarence Karier, *Some Reflections on A Coming of an American Fascism (D2L)*
Wednesday, May 22
Fromm, chapter 7
- Week 9** **Saving Democracy**
Monday, May 27
Writing Assignment #3 Due
Read Levitsky and Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*, chapters 1-4
Wednesday, May 29
Levitsky and Ziblatt, *How Democracies Die*, chapters 5-9
- Week 10** **Art and the Politics of Hope**
Monday, June 3
Edelman, *The Political Spectacle as Tactic and as Mystification (D2L)*
Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (will cover first 150 pages)
Wednesday, June 5
Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (entire novel)

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Students will write three papers for this course, approximately 3-5 pages in length, doubled spaced and typed; these papers will comprise 30% of the student's final grade. The major goal of the writing assignments is to get students to critically think and evaluate the material presented in the course. I will read drafts of papers in advance of the due date, provided you submit your drafts within a reasonable timeframe. In addition, I will work with you in class as to how to construct a thesis for your paper

The papers will be graded on the **accuracy**, **clarity** and **depth** of the ideas presented. The following rubric will help define what I mean by accuracy, clarity and depth.

Accuracy of Ideas Presented

How well does the paper answer the question posed? How well does the paper present the author's major ideas? Are the statements of fact presented accurately and supported with evidence? Does the paper avoid oversimplification of the author's main ideas?

Clarity of Ideas Presented

How well does the paper explain the meaning of information in the text? Does the student provide examples and illustrations to clarify the author's ideas? Does the student expand upon the author's ideas and present those ideas in his or her own way?

Depth of Ideas Presented

How well does the paper address the complexity of the problem or issue? How well does the paper consider alternative points of view? How well does the paper offer alternative interpretations and goes beyond the author's thesis?

You must write on three of the books we read this quarter: Deneen, Edelman and Fromm. I will not give you an essay prompt because part of the writing assignment includes coming up with your own original idea and paper topic. However, your papers must include the following components:

- A well-developed thesis that identifies analyzes and examines two or three aspects of the authors' argument that you find compelling and accurate.
- Two or three aspects of the author's arguments you find to be inaccurate, incomplete, or problematic in some way.
- Specific examples from the text and/or additional research and evidence to support your arguments; or an application of the theory under consideration.
- Counter-arguments; that is, alternative perspectives that counters your thesis. You should acknowledge the counter-argument and then proceed to tell the reader the ways the counter-argument is incorrect in its evidence presented, logic advanced or facts which are excluded.

Writing Assignment #1 Due Date: April 29th on Deneen's work, *Why Liberalism Failed?*

Writing Assignment #2 Due Date: May 13th on Edelman's work, *Symbolic Uses of Politics*

Writing Assignment #3 Due Date: May 27th on Fromm's work, *Escape from Freedom*