**Political Science 338G: Contemporary Political Theory (CRN: 89429)**
University of Hawaii at Mānoa
Department of Political Science
Course Syllabus: Spring, 2013

Jan. 7th to May 8th, 2013

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**Instructor:** Masahide T. Kato, Ph.D., Lecturer
**Office Hours:** Mon, Wed: 10 – 10:20, 11:30 – 12:30, Fri: 10–10:20 or by appointment.
**Office Location:** Saunders #626
**Contact Info:** (Office): 956-8537 (leave message), mtkato@hawaii.edu

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**Catalog Description**
Significant work, historic continuities, themes and issues in Political Theory.

**Disabilities Accommodation Statement**
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me or to contact directly with the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in my course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Liliuokalani Center for Student Services.
[This paragraph and more information regarding KOKUA can be found at: http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/.]

**Text Books:**

All readings are available online in PDF format through Laulima. Some visual material are reserved at Sinclair library for one-day maximum loan.

**Teaching/Learning Philosophy**

“All types of knowledge ultimately lead to self knowledge. – Bruce Lee.” The primary function of an instructor is to facilitate an environment in which each student, in co-operation with other students, can explore his/her own pursuit of knowledge. The instructor will provide conceptual tools and trainings on how to use the tools. However, the ultimate goal for students is to come up with their own tools and analyses, which inspires the instructor to grow further. This process of mutual growth is the most critical aspect of this class.

**Course Description: Towards a Political Theory of the Post-Globalization Era**

This course locates the beginning of Contemporary Political Theory at the outset of globalization, specifically in the year 1968. This historical juncture is marked by the waning analytical efficacy of macro political concepts (e.g., “state,” “sovereign,” “state,” and “subject”), and the emergence of micro political concepts and analytical methods. The latter is our primary field of investigation, which includes Feminist, Postmodern, Ecological, Postcolonial, and Indigenous political theories.

We pay particular attention to the socio-historic context within which political theory emerged to fulfill a historic necessity. As such we approach the emergence of contemporary political theory as the conceptual matrix of the social movements, artistic expressions, media, and popular culture in the globalization era.

In the final phase of this course, we locate political theory in a problem-solution context to directly engage with the contradictions of corporate globalization. Importing insights from the theories examined in this course, we attempt to formulate an “organic” theory conducive to sustainable reproduction of socio-economic systems, subjectivity, and ecosystems in the post globalization era.

**Student Learning Goals:**

1. Firm grasp of contemporary political theory in various contexts.
2. Development of critical analytical skills.
3. Examination and interpretation of contemporary political issues through the application of contemporary political thoughts.
4. Integration of knowledge and analytical skills into creative problem solving.
**Course Requirements and Grading Policy**

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is critical as the course is structured in the logical progression and in chronological order of historic events. Unexcused absences will affect the grade points significantly.

**CHAPTER SUMMARY:** Students take turns to orally present the summary of the assigned reading in the beginning of a class session. The minimum of two presentations is required.

**WEEKLY BLOG:** Students post their blogs (500 words and 3 paragraphs minimum) on the designated themes on a weekly basis at tumblr blog site reserved for this course. ([http://pols338g.tumblr.com](http://pols338g.tumblr.com) User name: mtkato@hawaii.edu, password: uhmanoa)

**CONCEPTUAL TERM QUIZ:** In lieu of midterm, students take a conceptual term quiz in order to harmonize each student’s progress with the collective intelligence of this class.

**FINAL PROJECT:** The final project consists of self-directed and collaborative works. Teams are organized according to the theoretical or problem themes. Each team organizes a panel discussion and makes an oral presentation to the class during the last week of the course. The presentation will be evaluated both by students and the instructor.

**FINAL PAPER:** The final paper is a research paper to be presented at his/her team’s panel discussion. The length should be somewhere between 8 – 10 pages with the citations and references following the established format (Chicago, MLA, APA styles). Students post the summary as their final blog.

**GRADING:**

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<td>Weekly Blogs</td>
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<td>Chapter Summary</td>
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- **A- to A+** 90 – 100%
- **B- to B+** 80 – 89%
- **C- to C+** 70 – 79%
- **D- to D+** 60 – 69%
* The instructor will not respond to student’s request for the final grade disclosure. The grade points for each requirement will be posted on Laulima (Gradebook).

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

* Schedule and materials may be subject to change.

**Week 1 (Jan. 7 – 11): Introduction to the Course/Basic Political Science Concepts**


Supplementary Readings: Carl Schmitt, Michel Foucault, Michel deCerteau.

Blog #1 Theme: Conceptual Terms and the Politics of Everyday Life

**Phase I: Context: Political Theory and Globalization**

**Week 2 (Jan. 14 – 18): The Birth of Contemporary Political Theory**

Blog #1 Due: Fri., Jan. 18th.


Video: The Chomsky and Foucault Debate on Human Nature

Blog #2 Theme: Encounters with Disciplinary and Biopolitical Power

**Week 3 (Jan. 21 – 25): Historical Contextualization of Globalization (Marxist Perspective)**

Blog #2 Due: Jan. 25th, Fri.

Readings: David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism (Chapter, TBA, E-book)” George Caffentzis, “From Capitalist Crisis to Proletarian Slavery”

Video: NO LOGO, Life and Debt


Phase II: Proliferation of Theories, Movements, and Subjectivities

Week 4 (Jan. 28 – Feb. 1): Micro-politics of Desire or the Multiplicity of Subjectivity and Social Movements
Blog #3 due: Fri., Feb. 1st

Readings: Michel Foucault, “Heterotopia.”
Deleuze-Guattari, “Micropolitics and Segmentarities.”

Video: TBA
No Blog Assignment

Week 5 (Feb. 4 – 8): Feminist Theory and Queer Theory

Readings: Luce Irigaray, “Any Theory of the Subject that ”
Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference.”
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (Chapter, TBA, E-book)

Video: Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde
Blog #4 Theme: Feminism and Empowerment

Week 6 (Feb. 11 – 15): Deconstruction: the Modern State and the “War on Terror”
Blog #4 Due: Fri., Feb. 15th

Readings: Jacques Derrida, “Force of Law” and “Chapter 1,” *The Sovereign and the Beast.*

Blog #5 Theme: Deconstructing the System.

Week 7 (Feb. 18 – 22): Postmodern Theory
Blog #5 Due: Fri., Feb. 22nd.
Readings: Jean Baudrillard, “Viruality and Reality.”
Paul Virilio, “Overexposed City.”


Blog #6 Theme: Cinematic Representation of Virtuality and Reality.

**Week 8 (Feb. 25 – Mar. 1): Ecofeminism and Ecosophy**
Blog #6 Due: Fri., March 1st.

Felix Guattari, “Three Ecologies.” (excerpt)

Video: TBA

Blog #7 Theme: Ecology and Subjectivity

**Week 9 (Mar. 4 – 8): Post-Marxist Theory**
Blog #7 Due: Fri., March 8th.

Readings: Selma James, “Women and the Subversion of the Community.”
Negri and Hardt, “The Multitude Against the Empire.”

Video: A Revolt that Never Ends (2004)

No Blog Assignment: Conceptual Terms Review

**Week 10 (Mar. 11 – 15): Post-Colonial Theory**

Gayatri Spivak, “Politics and the Imagination.”
Paul Gilroy, “It’s a Family Affair.”

Conceptual Term Quiz (No Blog Assignment)

**Phase III: Towards a Post-Globalization Political Theory**

**Week 11 (Mar. 18 – 22): Popular Culture and Political Theory: Hip Hop**

Readings: Tricia Rose, “Black Noise” (excerpt)
Paul D. Miller, “In Through the Out Door: Sampling and the Creative Act.”
Craig Castleman, “The Politics of Graffiti.”
Michael Holman, “Breaking: The History.”

Video: Wild Style/Scratch

Blog #8 Theme: Hip Hop aesthetics as a political theory

**Week 12 (Mar. 25 – 29): Spring Break**

**Week 13 (April 1 – 5): Indigenous Theory**
Blog #8 Due: Mon., April 1st
Final Project Proposal due: Fri., April 5th

Readings: Vine Deloria, “Thinking in Time and Space.”

Video: TBA

Blog #9 Theme: Indigenous theory as alternative ontology and epistemology

**Week 14 (April 8 – 12): Political Theory and Sustainable Communities**
Blog #9 Due: Fri., April 12th.
Final Project Team Formation: Wed., April 10

Readings: Luce Irigaray, “The Way of Love” (excerpt)
Arturo Escobar, “Culture Sits in Places.”

**Week 15 (April 15 – 19): Final Project: Team and Individual Work**

**Week 16 (April 22 – 26): Final Project: Team and Individual Work**

**Week 17 (April 29 – May 1): Final Project Presentation.**

May 8th: Final Paper/Blog#10 Due

“Pau ka hana!”