About the Course

This course seeks to uncover the political through the concept of resistance. Resistance is understood, in one sense, as the critical objection to ways of being governed and controlled, but it also evokes (as Andre Gide points out) the ability to persevere and overcome. Resistance is intimately linked to power - we may become empowered when we chose to resist and critique extant power relations. A major objective of this course is to develop critical thinking skills - to go beyond surface level analyses of politics in order to uncover multiple and often opposing truths. We begin with the premise that "the political" permeates all of human activity, and it is our task in this course to identify and analyze "the political" in a variety of settings. To this end, we will explore fiction, popular culture, film and historical texts to uncover critical political themes. The student will, by the end of this course, learn to think and read with resistance - using a critical mind that is constantly vigilant of power relations. Lastly, the student will gain a self-awareness of his or her own agency and potential to create alternate political futures.

Student Learning Outcomes

This is a survey course of political science designed to provide the student with an understanding of the concept of politics in relation to society and culture. In light of this, the objectives of this course will mirror the undergraduate learning outcomes that have been published by the UHM Department of Political Science itself. Descriptions below have been condensed so please take time to read the full descriptions at: http://www.politicalscience.hawaii.edu/undergraduate-program.html. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

• Learn to think politically – The understanding that all social, economic, and cultural processes are also political is a crucial learning outcome. This comprehension creates knowledgeable citizenry capable of action on policy decisions and conduct.
• Make a good argument - Both political phenomena and scholarship generally requires the capacity to reason well. To make a good political argument students need to learn to identify an argument, to distinguish strong and weak ways of making arguments, to analyze the arguments of others and to offer their own.
• Become critical of power - The study of power is a common interest across the discipline of political science. Students will be expected to learn to identify the workings of power in various forms, including power in language, in institutions, and in daily life. The ability to analyze power effectively, to ask critical questions about authority and legitimacy, are central to a robust understanding of politics.
• Communicate effectively in public settings - Learning to make a good argument and to think critically about power are key resources for effective public communication. Students will learn to speak and write clearly, and prepare themselves as communicators through practice in the classroom and through the course work.
• Develop knowledge of fundamentals in political science - For the aforementioned Student Learning Outcomes to be cultivated and achieved, students will be systematically exposed to a range of seminal knowledge fundamental to political science. While all subfields have their historically accumulated core knowledge base, they also rely on and transmit literatures common to their endeavor.

Required Course Materials

3. Supplemental readings found on Laulima: https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal: Syllabus, websites, selected videos, worksheets, additional readings and more!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Structure of the Course</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams (2) Mid-term and Final</td>
<td>(250 pts. each x2)</td>
<td>(25% each x 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and Attendance</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-class activities (4)</td>
<td>(25 pts each x 4)</td>
<td>(2.5% each x 4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science Research Project Part I:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal, Outline and Key Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Political Science Research Project Part II:</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Student Presentations

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political Science Research Project Part II:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
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<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
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<td>100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit (up to 50 pts)</td>
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<td>Extra Credit Book Review</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extra Credit Current Events (3 max)</td>
<td>10 pts each</td>
<td>(30 pts max)</td>
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**Assignments and Grading**

Students will demonstrate their understanding of course material through two exams, in-class activities, essay writing and one formal oral presentation at the end of the semester. All written works are to be turned in on paper, typed, at the beginning of class on their due dates. Content and format details for each assignment will be discussed in class.

**1) Exams**
The Mid-term and Final exams will cover the material we have gone over to that date in class. This includes all texts we have read, films, lectures and class discussions. To do well on the test you must continuously read all materials and take notes. I will post my Prezis on Laulima and these will serve as study guides. Please let me know if you need special testing accommodation.

**2) In class Participation and Attendance**
A significant part of your work in this course will be based on your attendance and participation in class. Always show up for class having read the assigned readings and be prepared to discuss what you have read.

**3) Final Paper:**
The final term paper will examine a topic in politics or in the media that the student wishes to explore in-depth using the concepts covered in this class. You must cite some of the readings and key concepts we have covered in this class, as well as a minimum of two "outside" sources. Your paper must contain a bibliography.

**Part I: Proposal, Outline and Key Concepts**
You will need to turn in a proposal outlining your preliminary research plans. Your outline should include the following:

1. Tentative title
2. Tentative thesis statement
3. List of 10 key concepts you will use in your paper.
4. One paragraph description of the following sections of your paper:
   a. Introduction (Introduce the main topic(s) of your paper. Please focus on only 1 or 2 topics from the course).
   b. Subtopic I
   c. Subtopic II
   d. Subtopic III
e. Conclusion

**Part II: Final Paper**
This is your final paper. You will be graded on your ability to critically analyze rather than summarize your findings. You should have a main argument (your thesis statement) and support your main argument with course materials.

**Research Project Guidelines:**
1. Please include and underline your thesis statement
2. Focus on 1-2 major topics from the course as indicated in the syllabus (e.g. political culture, globalization, the prison industrial complex, voting etc…).
3. Cite relevant course material, including lectures and films.
4. Your final paper should be between 5 and 10 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font and include a bibliography. Make sure you have your name, the date and page numbers on your assignments. I do not grade on grammar and spelling, but please do read and edit you work properly before handing it in. It is a good idea to find someone to help you edit your paper.

**Final Presentation:**
You will present your research paper in the final week of classes. You may use visual aids and creative presentations are encouraged. Each student will be given 5-10 minutes for their presentation (depending on our available time) and will be graded on the form and content of their presentation.

4) **Extra Credit**
You may earn up to 50 points in extra credit during this course. You can chose to do a book review of novel or political science book that will earn you up to 20 points. Additionally, you can write short papers about a "current event" that in some way relates to political science. Each current event paper can earn you up to 10 points in the class.

1. **Book review (20 points):** Write a 2-3 page review of a "political science book", or a book that uses or reflects the political science concepts covered in this class. If you are unsure about where to find a book that matches your interests, please ask me and I can hopefully find some options for you to chose from. Before you write your report - ask me if the book you have chosen is appropriate.

2. **Current event - up to 3 (10 points each):** A current event is anything that has happened recently and received national or local attention in the media or in the community. Write a 1-2 page analysis of a current event where you use at least one central concept we have learned in this course and cite at least one news-source that discusses the event.

* All extra credit work should be double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font and include a bibliography. Make sure you have your name, the date and page numbers on your assignments.
Due date: I encourage you to turn these in earlier rather than later in the semester. I will accept extra credit work until the last day of instruction, but please do not wait until the last day to hand these in.

Class Schedule
The schedule is subject to change; it is your responsibility to stay up to date.

Week 1
Introductions, Review of syllabus, Course Expectations
What is Politics?
01/08: Introductions and Syllabus
01/10: Belle and Mash (B&M) Introduction and ch 1

Week 2
Resisting or Relying on Government?
01/15: B&M ch 2.

01/17: Read Hobbes’ "Leviathan" AND Mill's "On Liberty" (Laulima)

Week 3
Governing Society - The Policing of Bodies
01/22: B&M ch 3
01/24: Excerpts from Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punish (Laulima) and Perkinson, R., Texas Tough. Introduction (Laulima)

Week 4
Political Economy
01/29: B&M ch 4
01/31: Read Karl Marx’ "Manifesto of the Communist Party" (Laulima)


Week 5
Neoliberalism vs Neomarxism
02/05: Phillipe Bourgois' *Crack in Spanish Harlem: Culture and Economy in the Inner City* (Laulima)

02/07: Watch: "Life and Debt"

**Week 6**

**Government Structures and Institutions: The Executive**

02/12: B&M ch 5

02/14: B&M ch 6

**Week 7**

**Courts and Law**

02/19: B&M ch 9

02/21: Sally Merry. “Colonizing Hawai‘i: The Cultural Power of Law” (Laulima)

**Political Science Research Project Part I: Proposal, Outline and Key Concepts**

**Week 8**

**Democracy and its Discontents**

02/26: B&M ch 10

Read Fareed Zakaria's "Illiberal Democracy" (Laulima)

02/28: MID-TERM EXAM

**Week 9**

**Media Matters in Politics**

03/05: B&M ch 11

03/07: Read John Fiske's "Videotech" (Laulima)

**Week 10**

**Globalization and International Relations**

03/12: B&M ch 12

03/14: Samuel Huntington (1993) "The Clash of Civilizations" (Laulima).

Stiglitz' "Globalization and its Discontents" (Laulima)

**Week 11**

**(De)colonization and Indigenous Resistance**

03/19: Excerpts from Silva's *Aloha Betrayed: Native Hawaiian Resistance to American Colonialism* (Laulima)

03/21: Excerpts from Linda Tuhiwai Smith's *Decolonizing Methodologies* (Laulima)

**Week 12**

**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 13**

**Orientalism**

03/26: Sa'id's *Orientalism*, excerpts (on Laulima)

03/28: Orwell's *Shooting an Elephant* Read Online: http://www.george-orwell.org/Shooting_an_Elephant/0.html
Week 14
Special Topics: Burma/Myanmar - the media and social revolutions
04/04: Begin reading *Burmese Days* by George Orwell
Watch Burma VJ

Week 15
Special Topics: Burma/Myanmar - Reading Burma through Orwell
04/09 - 04/11: Read *Burmese Days* by George Orwell

Week 16
*Burmese Days and Final Presentations*
04/16: Cont. reading Burmese Days
04/18: Begin Student Final Research project presentations

Week 17
*Final Presentations*
04/23: Final Presentations
04/25: Final Presentations

Week 18
*(Last week of instruction)*
04/30: Final Presentations and all extra credit work due.
05/02: (Study Day)

**EXAM WEEK**
05/07: Final Exam Date
05/09: Final Paper Due at 4pm

**General Policies and Advice**
If you have concerns about your performance in the course, please come see me or email me as soon as possible. We have a lot to cover and it may be easy to fall behind. Taking 1-2 days “off” may severely affect your grade.

Late work will not be accepted. It is to your advantage to stay on top of your assignments. Given the short amount of time we have to cover such a large amount of material, if you fall behind it will be extremely difficult for you to catch up. If you miss an exam or a due date because of illness or an emergency, you must have a note from your doctor for me to accept late work.

A problem with your computer is not a valid excuse for turning in late assignments. If you are having problems with your computer please plan ahead.

You must be self motivated to do well in this class. This course requires about 9 hours of study/class time per week. You will need to schedule time to complete the readings and assignments as indicated in the syllabus.

Students are advised that academic dishonesty (cheating and plagiarism) are prohibited by the UH "The Student Conduct Code" - if you are having problems with the class, please come and discuss them with me. Plagiarism or cheating will likely lead to you failing the course, or other academic sanctions.

If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require class or testing accommodations, please talk to me as soon as possible or let me know via email. If you are a student with a documented disability and have not voluntarily disclosed the nature of your disability and the support you need, you are invited to contact the The KOKUA program on campus (956-7511), which coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

I uphold the University of Hawaii's nondiscrimination policy in my classes. UHM does not tolerate discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, national origin, ancestry, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, arrest and court record, or associational preference.

In addition, my classroom, office, and by extension Laulima courses, are UH-designated Safe Zones. The Safe Zone program is committed to creating and maintaining a positive social and academic environment for gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans gendered students. Again, any discriminatory acts or language (on Chat, Messages or Forums) on the basis of sexual orientation will not be tolerated.

Final Note
Your learning is my principal concern, so I may modify the schedule or syllabus if it will facilitate your learning. For example, we may discover that we want to spend more time on certain topics and less on others. I'll consider changing the schedule if such changes would benefit most students' learning in this course.