The Discipline and Critical Social Theory

Detailed Course Description:
The course anatomizes key approaches to social theory and offers examples of applications to problems of contemporary and regional importance. The course focuses this semester on power, a central concept of political science, and its connection to a variety of related themes including political violence, resistance, discourse, gender, and nation. The course introduces students to a range of authors, texts and ideas contributing to the basic understanding of power as a concept, and adds related or derivative concepts to students' methodological toolboxes, provides guidance on contemporary applications of theories of power, and prepares students to write their major research project, the honors thesis.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Identify a range of approaches to the social and political theory of power, from pre-critical to critical.
- Identify the main theories of power and how power is conceptualized
- Evaluate theories of power as applied to specific topics and themes in political analysis.
- Understand and analyze the discipline of political science in preparation for writing a senior honors thesis
- Articulate the changing place of critical social theory in the discipline of political science.

Readings:

List and Valentini, "Analytical Political Theory"; Sartori, "Comparing and Miscomparing." These readings are posted to Canvas and the students may review them before class. Students <u>should</u> review them after class.

Power's Modes or Types: A Convivial Vocabulary of Power over/to/with

Readings: Amy Allen, "Rethinking Power"; Pansardi and Bindi, "The New Concepts of Power? Power-Over, Power-To and Power-With"

A Capsule History of Contemporary Power; Three "Faces" and Four "Dimensions" of Power

Readings: Lukes, *Power: A Radical View* (2005 edition), 1-38; Haugaard, "Introduction" in *The Four Dimensions of Power: Understanding Domination, Empowerment and Democracy*. Recommended: Haugaard, "Power," in *The Encyclopedia of Political Thought*

Power and Epistemology

Foucault, "The Subject and Power" (1982); Fricker, "Testimonial Injustice" and "Hermeneutical Injustice" in *Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing*

Structures and Stretching the Base: Race, Power, and Violence

Readings: Galtung, "Violence, Peace, and Peace Research"; Fanon, "Concerning Violence"; Arendt, "On Violence." Recommended: Paul Butler, "The Problem of State Violence"

Power and Gender (Post-structural Subjectivity, Freedom, and Power)

Hirschmann, *The Subject of Liberty*, Chapter 1 and 6; Mahmood, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*, Chapter 1 ("The Subject of Freedom")

Power and Resistance (From Below)

Lilja, "The Definition of Resistance"; Mikael et al, "The ABC of Resistance: Towards a New Analytical Framework"; Spivak, "Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography" in *Selected Subaltern Studies*

Power and Biopower (Biopolitics, Necropolitics, Necroeconomics)

Readings: Timothy Campbell and Adam Sitze, "Biopolitics: An Encounter"; *Society Must Be Defended* (March 1976), Lecture 11, 239-263; Agamben, "The Camp as the 'Nomos' of the Modern," in *Homo Sacer*; Mbembe, "Necropolitics." Recommended: Montag, "Necroeconomics: Adam Smith and Death in the Life of the Universal"

Power of and Over Space (Insurgent Planning of Space and for Resistance)

Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, excerpts; *The Art of Not Being Governed*, excerpts; Bayat, *Life as Politics: How Ordinary People Change the Middle East*. Recommended: Perusal of all tables of contents of volumes of Cairo School of Urban Studies (*Cairo Cosmopolitan, Cairo Contested, Cairo Securitized*)

Power and Authoritarian Regimes
Reading: Havel, "The Power of the Powerless"; Wedeen, *Ambiguities of Domination*; Jamal, "Ambiguities of Domination: 20 Years Later and We Are Still Not Getting it Right"

Platform Power and Bureaucratic-Managerial Politics
Wolin, *Politics and Vision*, Chapter 10, 16, 17 and excerpts; Zuboff, *Surveillance Capitalism*, excerpts. Recommended: Brayne, *Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion, and the Future of Policing*, excerpts

Technology and Power

Risse, *Political Theory of the Digital Age: Where Artificial Intelligence Might Take Us*, excerpts; Lazar, "Automatic Authorities: Power and AI"; Coeckelbergh, *The Political Philosophy of AI*, Chapter 5. Recommended: Sattarov, *Power and Technology*