

**POLS 399**  
**SEMINAR IN POLITICAL THEORY**  
**Governmentality as Administration: Power, Expertise, Consent**

**Prof. Norma Claire Moruzzi**  
**Spring 2016**  
**Wednesdays 3:00-5:30, BSB 1115**

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**Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 2-3, Wed. 2-3 and by appointment**

**Required Readings:**

- \*Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage/Random House, 1995)
  - °E.P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism" in *Past and Present*, No. 38, (Dec., 1967), pp. 56-97
  - David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (Oxford University Press, 2005)
  - Globalization at the Crossroads* (documentary film available online)  
<http://www.freetochoose.tv/program.php?id=globalization>
  - °Timothy Mitchell, "The work of economics: how a discipline makes its world" in *European Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (2005), pp. 297-320
  - Timothy Mitchell, excerpts from *The Rule of Experts* (University of California Press, 2002)
  - James C. Scott, excerpts from *Seeing Like a State* (Yale University Press, 1998)
  - \*Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (Penguin, any edition)
- \*Books are available from the UIC Bookstore and the UIC Daley Library.  
°Journal articles are available through the Daley Library.  
•Readings and films available electronically through the Blackboard course site; books can also be purchased on your own.

**Course Description:**

This course examines the processes through which governance has become governmentality, meaning a rule of apparently objective expertise that is overlaid on democratic institutions and practices, and structures continuing inequalities of power. Governmentality also implies the internalization of discipline and consent, so that obligations become "commons sense" and alternatives can be dismissed as "backward" or "irrational." Most formal politics (and much of political theory) takes for granted that contemporary individuals and their social practices are free from direct control by the liberal state. But a closer examination reveals that the modern "free" individual is very much a product of familiar institutions (practical and ideological) that shape daily choices along predictable trends. We discipline ourselves to the contexts we encounter. But these contexts have historical and political origins, and often structure realities quite at odds with what we might expect them to be.

Our readings will take us from an in-depth study of the development of modern “disciplinary society” (Foucault); to critiques of how these social, political, and economic frameworks are experienced in the US and elsewhere (multiple readings), to an examination of a notorious case of bureaucratically structured genocide (Arendt). This is a seminar in political theory, but many of the readings theorize through a close critical analysis of empirical examples. We will be reading for argument, while taking note of the variety (and similarities) of institutionalized power relations that are in evidence among the readings. All of these authors have been hugely influential in contributing to contemporary political arguments about the normalization of systems of quiet domination, and the (limited?) possibilities for democratic agency, resistance, and mobilization.

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance is required; two unexcused absences will lower your grade. Students are expected to do all assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions. All responsible contributions to discussion are welcome. You are expected to behave with academic integrity: you can check the university policy on this at: <http://www.uic.edu/ucatalog/GR.shtml#qa>

All students will be required to submit a weekly 1-2 page critical response to the week’s reading, the day before the reading is discussed. These papers must be left in the box on my office door (BSB 1122A) by 5pm on each Tuesday before the Wednesday class: you must submit and electronic copy AND a paper copy.

Beginning March 9 all students will be required select one week’s reading assignment and to work together in small groups of 3/4 to give a classroom presentation on that week’s reading; the group will also assist in leading class discussion that week. For that week, the group members do not need to submit a critical response paper before class, but must submit their presentation notes during/after class (everyone else must submit a critical response paper as usual).

Three 5-7 page papers on assigned topics are also required; these paper will build on the critical response papers you have already written. Grades will be calculated on the following basis: class participation 10%; critical response papers and presentations 30%; three longer papers worth 20% each.

Students with disabilities must inform the instructor of the need for accommodations. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY).

Students must notify the instructor within the first ten days of the semester of the specific dates on which they are requesting an absence for religious observance.

### **Course Schedule:**

W Jan. 13 Introduction

### **Disciplinary Society and its Origins**

W Jan. 20 \*Foucault, Part I “Torture,” Share II “Punishment” (3-134)  
W Jan. 27 \*Foucault, Part III “Discipline” (135-230)  
W Feb. 3 \*Foucault, Part IV “Prison” (231-308)  
W Feb. 10 **No Class**

### **Disciplinary Society and/or Capitalist Society**

W Feb. 17 °Thompson, “Time...”  
**Paper Due**  
W Feb. 24 •Harvey, pp. 1-86 (Introduction & Chapters 1-3: “Freedom’s Just Another Word...;” “The Construction of Consent;” “The Neoliberal State”)  
W Mar. 2 •Harvey, pp. 87-206 (Chapters 4-7: “Uneven Geographical Developments;” “Neoliberalism ‘with Chinese Characteristics;’” “Neoliberalism on Trial;” “Freedom’s Prospect”)  
**(Presentation Assignments Begin March 9)**

### **Governance as Expertise**

W Mar. 9 •Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, pp. 80-119, 153-178, 272-303  
(Chapters 3, 5, 9: “The Character of Calculability;” “Nobody Listens to a Poor Man;” “Dreamland”)  
W Mar. 16 •*Globalization at the Crossroads*  
<http://www.freetochoose.tv/program.php?id=globalization>  
°Mitchell, “The Work of Economics”  
W Mar. 23 **Spring Vacation No Class**  
W Mar. 30 •Scott, *Seeing Like a State*, pp. 1-83, 103-146 (Introduction & Chapters 1, 2, 4: “Nature and Space;” “Cities, People, and Language;” “The High-Modernist City: An Experiment and Critique”)  
W Apr. 6 °Scott, “The Production of Legal Identities...”  
**Paper Due MONDAY APRIL 11**

### **Following the Rules:**

W Apr. 13 \*Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, pp. 1-150  
(“Note to the Reader,” chapters I-VIII)  
W Apr. 20 \*Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, pp. 151-298  
(chapters IX-XV, “epilogue,” “Postscript”)  
W Apr. 27 Course Conclusion  
**Final Arendt Paper Due Monday May 2**