Fall 2018 / Films: Sun, 7-9pm / Class: Tues, 1:30-4:20pm, Wilcox 204

FRS 165: Projecting Power

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Course Description

How do stories influence our understanding of politics? What role do state actors play in shaping the cinematic narratives we see on screen? This first-year seminar will introduce students to the field of political science by placing American and international films in conversation with scholarship on power, politics, and storytelling. Each week we will study a film, read related research, and analyze how one informs our understanding of the other.

The course will focus on ethnic politics, broadly conceived, while considering a range of questions including, how do stories influence our sense of self, community and nation? How do filmmaking techniques (e.g. cinematography, casting, sound design) influence which people and issues become salient? How do aesthetic and narrative choices affect attitudes about the social order and who is deserving of power? Through close readings of films, social science, and media studies scholarship, this course will enable students to study key political science concepts, the institution of cinema, and how stories make meaning. In particular, the following themes will be addressed:

· **Hierarchy and myth**
How do stories influence our attitudes about society and who is deserving of power? How do camera angles, lighting, scripts, editing and other aspects of film craft inform our sense of who is central to a narrative and who is peripheral? Social psychologists Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto (1999) argue that all societies are organized, in part, through stories or myths that strengthen or weaken existing inequalities. We will look at how films present "hierarchy enhancing" or "hierarchy attenuating" myths that may play an important role in legitimizing or delegitimizing stratified social orders.

· **Culture as law**
How do cultural institutions shape human behavior? How do formal rules, such as laws, and informal rules, such as norms, structure and guide human action? Anthropologist and law professor Sally Falk Moore (2005), argued that culture "often [has] the force of law." Similarly, lawyer and professor Thomas Stoddard (1997) argued that social progress requires both "rule shifts" and "culture shifts." Along these lines, we will examine films and the larger film industry as cultural institutions that shape, reflect and reify society's ideas, values, and conventions.

· **Seeing the state**
Though locations are typically just silent backgrounds, in many films the setting often serves as "an extra character." In a similar vein, for this course, we will consider the role that state actors, government policies and political institutions play as often unseen "characters" shaping the on-screen narrative. Further, we will consider how making such policies visible, might change our understanding of film's themes, plot lines and character development as well as the policies themselves.

Course Requirements

Your final grade will be determined by class participation, response papers, presentations and your final paper. More detail about the requirements for the paper, including suggested page length (10-12 pages), and the guidelines for grading, will be discussed in class.

· **Participation** (20%) Most weeks we will screen a film, read related scholarship and discuss both in class. As a significant part of cinema involves experiencing films together on a large screen, attendance at the screenings is required. Screenings will typically be Sunday from 7pm to about 9pm (though individual run times may be slightly shorter or longer). Please note, *some films will contain material that is offensive or disturbing.* Exceptions to attending the screenings in person either due to scheduling conflicts or content of the film may be accommodated on a case-by-case basis after discussion with the professor.

· **Response and presentation** (40%): Based on the readings, you are required to three write short analyses (depending on enrollment). Each response should be no more than 750 words in length. These papers should be free of fluff (get right to the point, your argument, main idea or thesis), engage with the film and related literature (short on summary, long on critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the works). Respondents will also lead part of the class discussion. Students will select the weeks for which they'd like to respond at the start of the semester.

Papers are due 24 hours before the start of class. Papers should be circulated to the entire class. All students are expected to read any submitted papers before class and be ready to discuss their content in relation to the readings.

· **Final** (40%): The final is due at the end of the semester (Dean's Date). The paper should be 12 to 15 double-spaced pages. You are free to select whatever topic you prefer as long as it is related to the central themes of the course.

Grading

· Weekly assignments will be graded on a check (+/-) scale.

· The final will receive a letter grade.

· Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a grade (e.g. a check becomes a check-minus) for every 24 hours of lateness.

Class Schedule

· Week 1 (9/18), Introduction, the contested state
What makes a state? What makes a government legitimate?

  – Film: *The Battle of Algiers* (1966), directed by Gillo Pontecorvo.

  – Chapters 1-3. Jim Sidanius and Felicia Pratto (2001). *Social Dominance: An Intergroup Theory of Social Hierarchy and Oppression*. New York: Cambridge University Press

  – Chapter 4. Benedict Anderson (2006). *Imagined Communities*. London: Verso. URL: https://www2.bc.edu/marian-simion/th406/readings/0420anderson.pdf

  – Diana C. Mutz and Lilach Nir (2010). "Not Necessarily the News: Does Fictional Television Influence Real-World Policy Preferences?" *Mass Communication and Society* 13.2, pp. 196–217. URL: https://doi.org/10.1080/15205430902813856

  – Optional:

    * Film: *American Sniper* (2015), directed by Clint Eastwood
    * Video: *Reel Bad Arabs: How Hollywood Vilifies a People* (2014). Directed by Jeremy Earp and Sut Jhally. Featuring Jack Shaheen. URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/reel-bad-arabs-how-hollywood-vilifies-people
    * Kenneth Mulligan and Philip Habel (2013). "The Implications of Fictional Media for Political Beliefs." *American Politics Research* 41.1, pp. 122–146. URL: https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X12453758

        * Markus Prior (2005). "News vs. entertainment: How increasing media choice widens gaps in political knowledge and turnout." *American Journal of Political Science* 49.3, pp. 577–592

· Week 2 (9/25), Ethnic democracy
How do the few control the many?

- Film: *12 Years a Slave* (2013), directed by Steve McQueen.
- Introduction, pages 198-201. Sammy Smooha (1997). "Ethnic democracy: Israel as an archetype." *Israel Studies* 2.2, pp. 198–241. URL: `http://www.jstor.org/stable/30246820`
- Sidanius and Pratto, *Social Dominance*, Chapters 4-5.
- Donn C. Worgs (2006). ""Beware of the Frustrated…": The Fantasy and Reality of African American Violent Revolt." *Journal of Black Studies* 37.1, pp. 20–45. URL: `https://doi.org/10.1177/0021934705282378`
- Anthony Gierzynski and Julie Seger (2011). "Harry Potter and the Millennials: The Boy-Who-Lived and the Politics of a Muggle Generation." URL: `https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1902219`
- Optional:
    * *Ethnic Notions: African American Stereotypes and Prejudice* (1987), directed by Marlon Riggs. URL: `https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/ethnic-notions-0`
    * Young, Richard, Jeffrey Meiser, "Race and the dual state in the early American republic," in *Race and American Political Development.*
    * Morgan, Edmund S., *American Slavery, American Freedom.*

· Week 3 (10/2), Groups, stories and the state
Are humans inherently 'groupish'? What role does storytelling play in shaping our sense of in-group or out-group membership?

- Film: *Jonestown: The Life and Death of Peoples Temple* (2006), directed by Stanley Nelson.
- Chapters 1-3, 9. Jonathan Haidt (2012). *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Religion and Politics.* New York: Pantheon Books
- Rogers Brubaker (2002). "Ethnicity without groups." European Journal of Sociology/Archives Européennes de Sociologie. Vol 43 (2), pgs 163–189. URL: `http://bev.berkeley.edu/Ethnic%20Religious%20Conflict/Ethnic%20and%20Religious%20Conflict/1%20Identity/Ethnicity%20without%20Groups%20Brubaker.pdf`.
- A.V. Krebs (1992), "Bitter Harvest," Washington Post, February 2, 1992. URL: `https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/1992/02/02/bitter-harvest/c8389b23-884d-43bd-ad34-bf7b11077135/?utm_term=.2baf7af15bd2`

- Optional:
  * Video: *Amerika*, Episode One. URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KU49MR19CcA
  * Lenart, Silvo and Kathleen M. McGraw (1989). "America Watches 'Amerika:' Television Docudrama and Political Attitudes." 51(3), 697–712. URL: https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.2307/2131502

· Week 4 (10/9), Political violence and war
What role does inter-group violence play in ethnic division?

- Film: *The Act of Killing* (2012), directed by Joshua Oppenheimer.
- Bass, Gary. 2006. "What really causes civil war?" *New York Times Magazine*, 8/13/06. URL: https://www.princeton.edu/~gjbass/docs/nytcivilwar.pdf
- Ashutosh Varshney (2001). "Ethnic Conflict and Civil Society: India and Beyond." *World Politics* 53, no. 3: 362–98. URL: https://www.jstor.org/stable/25054154
- Kearns, Erin, and Joseph K. Young (2014). "If Torture is Wrong, What About 24?: Torture and the Hollywood Effect." American University School of Public Affairs Research Paper No. 2014-0001. URL: https://ssrn.com/abstract=2483131
- Optional:
  * Radio: Ari Shapiro (2017), "Some Indonesians Fear Country's Religious Intolerance Is Growing," NPR, October 31, 2017. URL: https://www.npr.org/2017/10/31/561246126/some-indonesians-fear-countrys-religious-intolerance-is-growing
  * Charles Tilly (1985). "War making and state making as organized crime." : *Bringing the State Back In.* Ed. by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge University Press. Chap. 5, pp. 35–60
  * Chapter 13, "The Biology of War and Genocide." Avi Tuschman (2013). *Our Political Nature: The Evolutionary Origins of What Divides Us.* Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books.
  * Barbara Harff and Ted Robert Gurr (1988). "Toward Empirical Theory of Genocides and Politicides: Identification and Measurement of Cases Since 1945." *International Studies Quarterly* 32.3, pp. 359–371. URL: http://www.jstor.org/stable/2600447
  * "Interrogating 24: Making Sense of US Counter-terrorism in the Global War on Terrorism." URL: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/07393140903105991

- * Jeffrey M Glas and J Benjamin Taylor (2017). "The Silver Screen and Authoritarianism: How Popular Films Activate Latent Personality Dispositions and Affect American Political Attitudes." *American Politics Research* 46.2, pp. 246–275. URL: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1532673X17744172
  - * *Meeting Tule Lake* (1994), directed by Scott T. Tsuchitani. URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/meeting-tule-lake

- · Week 5 (10/16), Race, ethnicity and political competition

  – Film: *Street Fight* (2005), directed by Marshall Curry.

  – Eifert, Benn, Edward Miguel, and Daniel N. Posner (2010). "Political Competition and Ethnic Identification in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science* 54 (2):492-510.

  – Daniel N. Posner (2004). "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98 (4) : 529-45.

  – Thomas E. Cronin (2008). ""All the world's a stage..." acting and the art of political leadership." *The Leadership Quarterly* 19.4, pp. 459–468. URL: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1048984308000726

  – Optional:

    * John Street (2004). "Celebrity Politicians: Popular Culture and Political Representation." *The British Journal of Politics & International Relations* 6.4, pp. 435–452. URL: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-856X.2004.00149.x

    * Arlie Russell Hochschild (Sept. 2016). "I Spent 5 Years With Some of Trump's Biggest Fans. Here's What They Won't Tell You." *Mother Jones*. URL: https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2016/08/trump-white-blue-collar-supporters/

- · Week 6 (10/23), School and state
  What role do educational institutions play in creating, reinforce or redefining national identities?

  – Film: "Rabbit-Proof Fence" (2002), directed by Phillip Noyce.

  – Darden, Keith and Anna Grzymala-Busse (2006). "The Great Divide: Literacy, Nationalism, and the Communist Collapse." *World Politics*, 59(1), 83-115. URL: http://www-personal.umich.edu/~abusse/WP8.pdf

  – Donald A Grinde (2004). "Taking the Indian out of the Indian: US policies of ethnocide through education." *Wicazo Sa Review* 19.2, pp. 25–32

  – David Link (1995). "Storyville: Turning every issue into a drama is warping public policy," *Reason*, Jan. 1, 1995. URL: http://reason.com/archives/1995/01/01/storyville/print

– Dan Bilefsky (2017). "Quebec Tries to Say Au Revoir to 'Hi,' and Hello to 'Bonjour'," *New York Times*, Dec. 6, 2017, pg A7. URL: `https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/05/world/canada/bonjour-hi-quebec.html`

– Optional:

  * Film: "He Named me Malala" (2015), directed by Davis Guggenheim.

· Fall Recess (10/30)

· Week 7 (12/4), Identity, intersectionality and gender

– Film: *Hooligan Sparrow: A Champion for Girls' and Women's Rights in China* (2016), directed by Nanfu Wang. URL: `https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/hooligan-sparrow-0`

– Chapter 3. Danielle L McGuire (2010). *At the Dark End of the Street: Black women, Rape, and Resistance.* Alfred A. Knopf.

– Htun, Mala. 2004. "Is Gender like Ethnicity? The Political Representation of Identity Groups." Perspectives on Politics, 2(03). Online at `http://www.u.arizona.edu/~jag/POL596A/htungenderethnic.pdf`.

– SKIM: Gierzynski, Anthony. 2016. "Fictional Leaders, Leadership Stereotypes and Evaluations of Women in Leadership Positions," URL: `https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Anthony_Gierzynski/publication/301647488_Fictional_Leaders_Leadership_Stereotypes_and_Evaluations_of_Women_in_Leadership_Positions/links/571f7c7508aeaced788abbc4.pdf`

– Optional:

  * Film: *Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed* (2004), directed by Shola Lynch.
  * Film: *Dolores* (2017), directed by Peter Bratt.
  * Film: *The Rape of Recy Taylor* (2017), directed by Nancy Buirski.
  * Video: *Slaying the Dragon: Media Stereotypes of Asian & Asian American Women* (2011), directed by Deborah Gee.
    URL: `https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/slaying-dragonslaying-dragon-reloaded`
  * Video: *The Slanted Screen Hollywood's Representation of Asian Men in Film & Television* (2006), directed by Jeff Adachi.
    URL: `https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/slanted-screen-0`
  * Gary King, Jennifer Pan, and Margaret E Roberts (2014). "Reverse-engineering censorship in China: Randomized experimentation and participant observation." *Science* 345.6199, pp. 1–10.
  * Washington, Ebonya L. 2008. "Female Socialization: How Daughters Affect Their Legislator Fathers." *American Economic Review*, 98(1): 311-32. Online at `https://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/aer.98.1.311`

       * Gay, C. and Tate, K. 1998. "Doubly Bound: The Impact of Gender and Race on the Politics of Black Women." *Political Psychology*, 19: 169?184.
URL: `https://scholar.harvard.edu/cgay/files/Gay_and_Tate_PPsych_1998.pdf`

· Week 8 (11/13), How states make race (and ethnicity and religion)
What role does policing and the carceral state play in group identity and civic engagement?

    – Film: *Hunger* (2008), directed by Steve McQueen.

    – Skim: Vesla M Weaver and Amy E Lerman (2010). "Political Consequences of the Carceral State." *American Political Science Review* 104.04, pp. 817–833

    – Chapters 1-18 (pages 1–158). Heather Ann Thompson (2016). *Blood in the Water: the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy*. Pantheon.

    – Optional:

       * Film: *The Work* (2017), directed by Gethin Aldous and Jairus McLeary.
URL: `https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/work-0`

       * Film: *Thin Blue Line* (1988), directed by Errol Morris.

· Week 9 (11/20), How states make race (and ethnicity), continued
What role does state repression play in group identity and political participation?

    – Film: *Free Angela and All Political Prisoners* (2012), directed by Shola Lynch.

    – Chapters 19-29 (pages 159–268). Heather Ann Thompson (2016). *Blood in the Water: the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy*. Pantheon.

    – Penner, Andrew M, and Aliya Saperstein. 2008. "How Social Status Shapes Race." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 105 (50): 19628–19630.

    – Skim: Anthony Gierzynski (2015). "Game of Thrones, House of Cards and the Belief in a Just World." URL: `https://www.researchgate.net/publication/283908504_Game_of_Thrones_House_of_Cards_and_the_Belief_in_a_Just_World`

    – Optional:

       * Film: *The Central Park Five* (2012), directed by Ken Burns.

       * Ryan Enos, Aaron Russell Kaufman, and Melissa L. Sands (2017). "Can Violent Protest Change Local Policy Support? Evidence from the Aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles Riot". URL: `https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/renos/files/enoskaufmansands.pdf`

* Jennifer L. Hochschild and Brenna M. Powell (2008). "Racial Reorganization and the United States Census 1850-1930: Mulattoes, Half-Breeds, Mixed Parentage, Hindoos, and the Mexican Race." *Studies in American Political Development* 22.1, pp. 59–96. URL: `https://dash.harvard.edu/bitstream/handle/1/3153295/hoschschild_racialreorganization.pdf?sequence=2`

* Markus Appel (Mar. 2008). "Fictional Narratives Cultivate Just-World Beliefs." *Journal of Communication* 58.1, pp. 62–83

* Marx, Anthony W. 1996. "Race-Making and the Nation-State." *World Politics*, 48(2), 180-208.

· Week 10 (11/27), Political geography and identity
How does our sense of place shape our sense of self?

– Film: *LA '92* (2017), directed by Dan Lindsay and TJ Martin.

– Rothstein, Richard. 2017. *The Color of Law.* Focus on chapters 1-4 and 11-12.

– Optional:

* Film: *Let the Fire Burn* (2013), directed by Jason Osder.
* Film: *5 Broken Cameras* (2011), directed by Emad Burnat, Guy Davidi.
* Short: *The Red Pines: Japanese-Americans in the Pacific Northwest* (2009), directed by Don Sellers, Katie Jennings, Lucy Ostrander. URL: `https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/red-pines`.
* Nolan Gray. 2018. "Density Is How the Working Poor Outbid the Rich for Urban Land," February 5, 2018. URL: `http://marketurbanism.com/2018/02/05/density-working-poor-outbid-rich-urban-land/`

· Week 11 (11/6), Protests, conflict and identity salience

– Film: *How to Survive a Plague* (2012), directed by David France.

– Skim: Omar Wasow (2017). "Leading from Below: How subordinate group protests influence media and politics," Paper presented at Ethnicity and Identity Seminar, Bobst Center, Princeton, NJ, 11/29/17

– Maria J Stephan and Erica Chenoweth (2008). "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict." en. *International Security* 33.1, pp. 7–44. DOI: `http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/isec.2008.33.1.7`. URL: `http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/abs/10.1162/isec.2008.33.1.7`

– William A Gamson and Gadi Wolfsfeld (1993). "Movements and media as interacting systems." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 528.1, pp. 114–125

– Optional:

* Film: *Selma* (2015), directed by Ava Duvernay.
* Film: *The Square (Al midan)* (2013), directed by Jehane Noujaim.
* Film: *Brother Outsider: The Life of Freedom Fighter Bayard Rustin* (2002), directed by Bennett Singer, Nancy Kates.
  URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/brother-outsider
* Film: *United in Anger: A History of ACT UP: The Grassroots Movement to End the AIDS Crisis* (2012), directed by Jim Hubbard.
  URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/united-anger-history-act-0
* Daniel Q Gillion (2012). "Protest and Congressional Behavior: Assessing Racial and Ethnic Minority Protests in the District." *The Journal of Politics* 74.4, pp. 950–962
* Soumyajit Mazumder (2018). "The Persistent Effect of U.S. Civil Rights Protests on Political Attitudes." *American Journal of Political Science.* URL: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12384
* McClendon, Gwyneth H. "Social Esteem and Participation in Contentious Politics: a Field Experiment at an LGBT Pride Rally." *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 279–90.
  URL: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/ajps.12076

· Week 12 (12/11), Culture, law, marginalization and public health
How do culture and law interact to shape how marginalized groups gain or lose power and equality?

  – Short: *Bayard & Me* (2017), directed by Matt Wolf.
    URL: https://vimeo.com/217242791

  – Film: *Paris is Burning* (1990), directed by Jennie Livingston.
    URL: https://www.netflix.com/title/60036691

  – Stoddard, Thomas B. 1997, "Bleeding heart: Reflections on using the law to make social change." *New York University Law Review*, 72(5):967–991.

  – Cohen, Cathy J. 1999. *The Boundaries of Blackness: AIDS and the Breakdown of Black Politics.* University of Chicago Press. Read chapters 1 and 2; skim 5 and 10.

  – Broockman, D. and J. Kalla. "Durably reducing transphobia: A field experiment on door-to-door canvassing," *Science*, 352(6282):22–224, 2016.

  – Optional:

    * Film: *BPM (Beats Per Minute)* (2017), directed by Robin Campillo.
      URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/bpm-beats-minute.
    * Film: *Valentine Road* (2013), directed by Marta Cunningham.

* Video: *Off the Straight & Narrow* (1998), directed by Jeremy Smith, Katherine Sender, Sut Jhally.
  URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/straight-narrow.

* Video: *Tongues Untied: Giving a Voice to Black Gay Men* (1989), directed by Marlon Riggs.
  URL: https://princeton.kanopy.com/video/tongues-untied

* Shilts, Randy (1995), *And the Band Played on: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic.* New York: St Martin's Press. Chapters 1–6.

* Lieberman, Evan S., (2007). "Ethnic Politics, Risk, and Policy-Making: A Cross-National Statistical Analysis of Government Responses to HIV/AIDS," *Comparative Political Studies.* Volume: 40 issue: 12, page(s): 1407–1432. URL: http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0010414007306862.

· January 15, 2019, Final Paper Due

(Revised December 25, 2018)