

POWER, IDENTITY AND RESISTANCE II

Professor: Joshua Craze (joshuacraze@joshuacraze.com) | <https://www.joshuacraze.com>

Time: Monday and Wednesday, 1.30pm—2.50pm for section fifteen | Monday and Wednesday, 3-4.20pm for section twenty-three.

Room: Harper 145 for both sections

Professor's office: Gates-Blake Hall Room 305

Office Hours: See below, by appointment. Office hours will either be in my office, or in Plein Air Café (in the seminary co-op bookstore, 5751 S Woodlawn Ave), where the professor will be found hidden behind a triple espresso.

You can sign up for office hours on the following Google doc (there is also link in the Course Documents section on Chalk):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OIzHRivqScZWjebZskdEk0uBtq5428OrEHevs7Ja-aI/edit?usp=sharing>

There are two interns for this course, Jonathan Schoots (jonathanschoots@uchicago.edu) for section fifteen, and Julius Jones (jljones2@uchicago.edu) for section twenty-three. Office hours for both are by appointment. However, please only make office hours appointments with the intern for your section.

Course Description

This course is the second of a three-quarter sequence in the Social Sciences Common Core called ‘Power, Identity, Resistance.’

The course as a whole will be—to distend the title of the German philosopher Karl Jaspers’ popular book—an *Einführung in die Politik*. Jaspers’ book (an *Einführung in die Philosophie*) is commonly—though appallingly—translated as *The Way to Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy*. The literal translation of the title would be, *An Introduction into Philosophy*. Note that this is different from an introduction *to* philosophy. Jaspers’ did not intend to set out the positions of various schools (the Neo-Platonists, the Neo-Kantians, etc.) or thinkers (Nietzsche, Heidegger, Deleuze), but rather to viscerally convey what it is to *think* philosophically. His book is an invitation to philosophical thought. This course, in an analogous fashion, is an introduction to thinking *politically*.

Some of the questions this sequence will deal with are: Why and when do we obey political institutions, and what grounds do we have for doing so? When are political institutions legitimate? Why do some activities count as labor, and others as leisure? How do we value objects and people? These questions underlie some of the most fundamental themes in political philosophy. In this sequence we will approach them not to find the definitive answer to any of these questions (as if we could then all go home and watch television), but to learn how to ask them.

As Sloterdijk notes in *Rules for a Human Zoo*, books are thick letters from friends. This sequence offers you all an opportunity to make some close friends with some of the greatest thinkers of the last three centuries: to do so means to spend time sinking into these books, conversing with them, arguing with them, and throwing them against a wall. Engaged with properly, the voices of Marx and Foucault should accompany you, like cultivated demons, for the rest of your life.

Required Texts

Adam Smith. *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library Edition (2000).
Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics.
Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press.
Michael Foucault. *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-79*. New York: Picador.

All these texts will be available in the Seminary Coop bookstore. You must bring the text(s) under discussion to class. You **must** use the editions of the texts that are given above, otherwise it becomes difficult to share references in class, as everyone is referring to page numbers in different editions: (“How can you say that Marx doesn’t have a robust theory of value, read page 336!” “That’s the bibliography, dude”).

All other texts will be available via Chalk, in the Course Documents Folder. If the texts are on Chalk, then you **must print** out the texts, and bring them to class.

Course Requirements

1. Class participation (40%). Active class participation is essential. This doesn’t mean dominating the conversation, but learning a rare and valuable skill: how to think with others. It takes courage, perseverance, and seriousness.

You should be trying, most fundamentally, to think *with* the author you are reading. Rather than trying to make cheap points disproving her or his argument, you are strongly encouraged to try to appreciate the nuances of the thoughts on the pages in front of you. Try to be Marx or Foucault for a day; attempt to internalize their thought.

You need to be committed to the class. Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot come to class, you must inform me in advance, or produce a letter from a recognized figure of authority (e.g. a judge, if last night went wrong, or—hopefully more likely—a doctor. Your aunt does not count). Lateness is not permitted.

If you have three unauthorized absences, you will fail the class. If you are late three times, that will count as one unauthorized absence. So if you are late to nine classes: you will fail the class.

You must come to class with your text, having read the text that we will discuss in class that day, and with a sense of some of the things you found interesting in it. These are great texts. Reading them takes skill. Please do your reading for class slowly, carefully, and thoughtfully. You must read these texts slowly: skimming them is not an option; you simply cannot understand these difficult texts if you skim.

As a rule of thumb, for difficult readings, such as Marx’s *Capital*, you should be spending about thirty minutes on each page, slowly reading it, and pausing, to make sure you understand it.

By **5pm** on the day before class, please post three paragraphs you would like to talk about in class in the Google document (<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qJT8hOeZ3lkGZW20zxCPuNQ-HOpFaJimNgS2e4DM9m0/edit?usp=sharing>), following the formatting information given there.

2. Papers (60%). Over the course of the quarter, you will write three analytical essays. They should be precise exercises in formulating an argument, and weighing its worth, written in relation to the material at hand.

I will distribute paper topics about ten days before the due date. Your essays should be emailed to me at joshuacraze@joshuacraze.com by 11.59pm on the due date. Please write the question you are answering at the top of your essay. The document should be double-spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, with numbered pages, and your name on every page. Please use the Chicago Manual of Style to organize your citations. Late essays will be penalized by a grade the first time an essay is late, and two grades for subsequent late essays during the quarter.

If you hand in your essays on time, they will come back to you a week later, with substantial commentary. If your essays are late, they will not receive comments, just a grade.

I will only give extensions for medical emergencies or bereavement, not because you have two midterms and three other essays, which is true of every other student in class.

Other Matters

No laptops, phones, recorders, etc. in class.

I will try to answer all email within 48 hours, but I normally only check my email at night, so please don't write to me at 10am asking for an extension for a paper due that evening. I cannot provide assistance with your essay by email—please come to office hours for that.

Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated and may result in a failing grade for the course and other actions as the university deems appropriate. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic honesty please speak with me and I will be happy to help you. Further details on the university's academic integrity policy can be found at <http://college.uchicago.edu/policies>

The Work

Week One:

Wednesday January 4: Introduction to the class. Reading: Carl Schmitt: 'The Age of Neutralizations and Depoliticizations.' (Available in Chalk).

Week Two:

Monday January 9: Adam Smith. *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library Edition. Introduction and Plan of the Work (pp. xxiii-xxvi); book one, chapters one to five: pp. 1-52.

Wednesday January 11: Adam Smith. *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library Edition. Book one, chapters six to ten: pp. 53-165.

Week Three:

Monday January 16: Martin Luther King Day

Wednesday January 18: Adam Smith. *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library Edition. Book two, introduction, chapters one and two: pp. 299-359.

Week Four:

Monday January 23: Adam Smith. *The Wealth of Nations*. New York: Modern Library Edition. Book two, chapters three-five (pp. 360-406); book three, introduction and chapter one (pp. 407-412); book four, introduction and chapter one (pp. 455-480). **First essay set.**

Wednesday January 25: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics. Book One, Part One, Chapter One: pp. 125-162).

Week Five:

Monday January 30: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics. Book One, Part One, Chapter One, Section Four (pp. 163-177). 'The Fetishism of the Commodity and Its Secret.'

Wednesday February 1: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics: pp. 247-257 & pp. 270-319.

First essay due Sunday February 5

Week Six:

Monday February 6: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics: pp. 320-340 & pp. 429-491.

Wednesday February 8: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics: pp. 492-564.

Week Seven:

Monday February 13: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics: pp. 588-609 & pp. 762-793. **Second essay set.**

Wednesday February 15: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics: pp. 873-926.

Week Eight:

Monday February 20: Karl Marx, *Capital, Volume I*. Translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Penguin Classics: pp. 927-942.

Wednesday February 22: Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press: pp. 3-80.

Second essay due Sunday February 26

Week Nine:

Monday February 27: Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Boston: Beacon Press: pp. 116-231.

Wednesday March 1: Michael Foucault. *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-79*. Lectures one, two, and three: pp. 1-74.

Week Ten:

Monday March 6: Michael Foucault. *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-79*. Lectures eight, nine and ten: pp. 185-266. **Third essay set.**

Wednesday March 8: Michael Foucault. *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-79*. Lectures eleven and twelve: 267-316.

Third essay due Thursday March 16