Political Science 283: Contemporary Political Theory
Instructor: James Johnson Fall Semester 2013
Office Hours: Thursday 1:30-3:00 Harkness 312
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In this class we will explore the intersections of political theory and photography. The class will run as a seminar in which we will discuss assigned readings and images. Reading for the course is heavy and difficult. The assigned readings are by both political theorists (Arendt, Foucault, Dewey) and by photographers and critics. Your job will be to begin to draw connections among them. You need to keep up with the readings and come to class prepared to stick your neck out! In that sense this will be like a graduate seminar in which everyone is an active participant.

Books: I have NOT ordered these at the UR Bookstore. You should be able to find them all used on line at your preferred e-purveyor. You will not be able to participate in class without a copy of the book.


In addition to these books I will deposit a number of articles and essays on the Blackboard page for the course. I will do the same for Power Point presentations of images.

Your grade in the class will be based on Participation (10%), one short review of two films (20%) and a final paper on a topic to be negotiated with me (70%).

Films: These will be placed on reserve in the Art Library in Rush Rhees Library.

Jennifer Baichwal “Manufactured Landscapes” (2007)
Christian Frei “War Photographer” (2001)

Each of these four films explores the work of an important contemporary photographer. You will need to watch at least two of these and write a short “review” discussing the relation between the relevant photographers. See dates below.
Class Schedule - We will aspire to keep to this schedule of readings.

September

3 - Introduction
5 - Susan Sontag - ‘Photography: A Little Summa’

Pages 3-145.

17 - *Edwards Photography
Pages 164-230.

24 - *Sontag Regarding the Pain of Others

October

1 - *Dewey The Public & Its Problems
3 - *Dewey.

8 - No Class, Fall Break
10 – Film

15 – Film
17 – * Arendt Portable Hannah Arendt.
Film Review Due

22 - *Sliwinski Human Rights in Camera.

29 - *Foucault Discipline & Punish.
31 - Catch Up

November

5 - *Levi Strauss Between the Eyes.


19 - *Linfield* *The Cruel Radiance*
21 - *Linfield.*

28 - No Class, Thanksgiving

**December**


12 – Catch Up

19 - **Final Paper Due** (Noon)