**Course Description: “Neos, Isms, & Pronouns”**

This seminar examines American political thought in historical and analytical perspective or as Neos, Isms, & Pronouns. It juxtaposes chronological periods or the past to current policy problems professed by contemporary political thought/thinkers. The policy issues are undergirded by American supremacies. These supremacies produce intolerances, inequities, and inequalities that affect intersecting identities or full-bodies most by forming a confluence of factors or what I call a “power-pile-on”. To make this juxtaposition, the seminar roughly breaks along historical lines or these trajectories in time: a colony, a revolt, a founding, a war, and a new nation (new news or neos) all around the 20th century fin de siècle. The power-pile-on is unpacked by weighing impact on bodies that are raced, sexed, gendered, beaten, cleansed (read and/or for measuring full impact) within different capitalisms (i.e. industrial, monopoly, etc . . .)

Original texts will be used written by public intellectuals/political thinkers/or political thought leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Paine, James Madison, William Du Bois, John Dewey, Malcolm X, Gloria E. Anzaldua, Judith Butler, Donna Haraway, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. In addition to becoming familiar with the political science standardized and sanitized SLAM (Straight Liberal American Male) and SCAM (Straight Conservative American Male) interpretations, alternative interpretations will be emphasized used, such as anti-essentialism (not “not essentialism.”)

**Objectives, Goals & Requirements:**

1. Complete assigned readings before class. Before each seminar meets, students distribute a short written summary or abbreviated outline of the reading with abbreviations (and can be handwritten if preferred). Turn in a portfolio of notes for seminars attended.
2. Midterm: Turn in a 5-page mid-term drawn from a reading question.
3. Final: Turn in 10-15 page essay (including notes and bibliography)

**Weight:** Participation = 25 percent; Midterm = 25 percent; and Final = 50%

**Privacy:** No taping, recording of any kind with any medium permitted without written permission by instructor and all participants each session. Printed- hard-copy notes sharing between and among students for peer-help purposes of peer-help. Student privacy protected.

**Books to Consider Purchasing:**


If not on Blackboard, most articles downloaded from mentioned Mina Reese database source of Project MUSE, and if this does not work try JSTOR. Law articles found on Lexis-Nexis.

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FALL 2016 GC Calendar for Seminars
1M Aug 29 (No class M Sept 5)!
2M Sept 12
3M Sept 19 (moved to Tues Sept 20 by AP, attendance encouraged)
4M Sept 26 (No class M Oct 3)
5 TH Oct 6 class (TH follow M schedule)
6M Oct 17!
7M Oct 24!
8M Oct 31
9M Nov 7!
10M Nov 14
11 M Nov 21
12 M Nov 28
13M Dec 5!
14 M Dec 12
15 M Dec 19 (Final - materials due that day unless incomplete warranted)

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Reading: John Winthrop, “A Model of Christian Charity,”

3. A Revolt

4. A Confounding Foundation

5. Frontiers
Reading: Alexis De Tocqueville, Democracy in America (Signet classic, Richard Heffner ed. 1956), Book I, part I, 10-14; Book I Part II, 16-18; Book II, Part I, 26-30. !Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History," delivered to the
American Historical Association in 1893 at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/frontierthesis.html

6. Another War
Ralph Waldo Emerson Self-Reliance 1841 http://usinfo.org/docs/democracy/14.htm

7. Neo Pops

8. In Class Midterm (see above)

9. Neo-Nation
10. Capitalism(s)
Reading: Louis Brandeis, Other People’s Money

11. Supremacies - Bodies Raced

12. Supremacies - Bodies Sexed, Sold, and/or Gendered
Reading: Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique (W.W. Norton, 2001), chps 1-3; Judith Butler, Gender Trouble, chps TBA; Herbert Marcuse One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society (Beacon Press, 1991), chps 1, 6-8, 10; Martha Fineman, The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies (Routledge Press, 1995), chapters 1,2, and 9; and Gloria Steinem, My Life on the Road (Penguin/Random House, 2015) TBA.

13. Supremacies - Bodies Cleansed, Tolerated, and/or Better Behaved?

14. Spreading Supremacies – Bombs, Villages & Viruses

Reading: Benjamin Peters, editor, Digital Keywords: A Vocabulary of Information Society and Culture (Princeton University Press, 2016), chp 1 or Intro (and 4 of your choosing); Barack Obama’s Speeches, TBA; and Hillary Rodham Clinton, It Takes a Village (any edition), chpt 1.