This course is intended to present a rigorous, theoretically-informed understanding of structures and practices of power in 20th and early 21st century American society, viewed primarily through the lenses of class and economics, race, and gender. Special attention will be paid to the intersections of these structures of power. The course is not intended to present an exhaustive understanding of power in modern American society, but to provide students with the tools of analysis that will allow them to think intelligently about it.

The course will consist primarily of discussion and partly of lecture. Class attendance and participation are mandatory, and will be the basis for a significant portion of course grades (see below). It is expected that students will have completed the assigned reading before class, and will bring the day's texts with them to class. *The amount of reading assigned in this course will be substantial.*

The themes and subjects of this course are obviously delicate subjects for conversation, and the professor will treat all students with respect. It is expected that students will do the same.

**COURSE TEXTS**

Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting by in America*

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*

James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*

Herbert Marcuse, *One-Dimensional Man: Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society*

Malcolm X & Alex Haley, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*

All other readings, along with lecture slides, syllabi, essay prompts, and all other course documents, can be accessed via the course website, [adamgomez.wordpress.com/teaching/polisci506SP14](http://adamgomez.wordpress.com/teaching/polisci506SP14). Films are on reserve at the College Library, or can be rented and viewed online via links on the course site.

**GRADES**

Grades will be based on class participation (25%) and three 5-8 page take-home essays (25% each). Two absences will be excused; further absences will count against participation grades. Participation grade may include pop quizzes. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class. Late essays will be penalized 5 points per day late. Grade scale: A 92-100; AB 87-92; B 82-87; BC 77-82; C 70-77; D 60-70; F < 60. Students opting to take the class with honors will write a 15-25 page research paper on a subject of their own choosing, focusing on the intersection of two or more forms of socio-political power.
**Course Schedule**

I. Power & Freedom

1/21  Introduction
1/23  Isaiah Berlin, “Two Concepts of Liberty” (1958)
1/30  *Discipline and Punish*, “Panopticism”

II. Class & Economy as Practices of Power

2/11   *Nickel and Dimed*, ch. 3, Evaluation & Afterword
2/18   *One-Dimensional Man*, ch. 3, 5, & 6
2/20   *One-Dimensional Man*, ch. 9 & 10

**Essay 1 assigned, Honors research project topics finalized**

2/25   *One-Dimensional Man*, continued discussion

III. Race, Identity, & Social Order


**Essay 1 due**


3/18-20 Spring break

3/27   *The New Jim Crow*, ch. 3 & 4

**Essay 2 assigned**

4/1    *The New Jim Crow*, ch. 5 & 6
IV. GENDER, BODIES, POWER, & VIOLENCE

4/10 *The Feminine Mystique*, ch. 5-9

Essay 2 due

4/15 *The Feminine Mystique*, ch. 10-14, Epilogue
Shulamith Firestone, selection from “The Dialectic of Sex” (1970)
Toni Morrison, “What the Black Woman Thinks About Women’s Lib” (1971)

Latoya Peterson, “The Not Rape Epidemic” (2008, from YMY)
Thomas MacAulay Millar, “Meet the Predators” (2009); “Mythcommunication: It’s Not That They Don’t Understand, They Just Don’t Like The Answer” (2011)

4/24 Thomas MacAulay Millar, “Toward a Performance Model of Sex” (2008, from YMY)
Jessica Valenti, “Purely Rape: The Myth of Sexual Purity and How it Reinforces Rape Culture” (2008, from YMY)

4/29 Jadyn Friedman, “This Is What Rape Culture Looks Like” (2009)
Jessica Valenti, “Ending Rape Illiteracy” (2012); “Asking For It” (2013)
E.J. Graff, “Building a Respect Culture” (2013); “To Stop Rape Culture, Ring the Bell” (2013)


Essay 3 assigned

5/8 Conclusion

5/15 Essay 3 & Honors research project due

All dates on course schedule are approximate: reality will no doubt intrude. All papers and the final exam must be completed to receive a passing grade. Late essays will be penalized 5 points per day late. This course adheres to all university standards for academic honesty, and all papers must be submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism detection in order for credit to be received. Plagiarism is when an author “uses words, ideas or work products, attributable to an identifiable person or source, without attributing the work to the source from which it was obtained, in a situation in which there was a legitimate expectation of original authorship, in order to obtain benefit, credit or gain” (“Is it plagiarism? Well, it is Rather Difficult To Say,” by Hannah Fearn, *Times Higher Education Supplement*, July 1, 2010).