

Political Science 610
Anarchism
Thursday, noon-2:30
Friedman Room, Saunders 224

Kathy E. Ferguson
Fall 2014
Office: 640e Saunders Hall
Hours: 10-11 am, T & Th

This is a class about anarchism. We will read about anarchist ideas, projects and movements, and at the same time we will create our own class, together, in light of anarchist ways of organizing.

I have a few ground rules:

- we will read 3-4 articles per week or a half a book, (approximately);
- everyone has to write 20-25 pages of something (an essay, a work of fiction, a series of shorter essays, or some other form) that makes use of several of the ideas and readings from the class;
- everyone needs to participate in discussions, not leave the work to others.

Beyond these generic expectations about what counts as grad level work, we are going to invent the class together: everyone will be asked to come to the first few classes with their thoughts on what questions they have regarding anarchism and what they want to study for the first half of the semester; we'll make a plan, agree on readings and make a schedule; at the half-way point we will regroup, look at what we have covered, think about the new questions that have arisen, and then make a plan for the remainder of the semester.

I am taking the lead in establishing these ground rules for several reasons:

- First, I hate boring, lazy, or directionless seminars, as you probably do as well, so I take primary responsibility for making this one interesting, challenging and rewarding, while inviting you to join me in those tasks.
- Second, I'm already familiar with many aspects of anarchism, so (by anarchist principles) I'm qualified to offer leadership on this particular project.
- Third, if this experiment in self-management does not work, I will take it upon myself to change the ground rules in order to make the class work in some other fashion.

Required books (available in UH bookstore):

Colin Ward, *Anarchism: A Very Short Introduction*
Paul Avrich, *The Modern School Movement*