This graduate seminar will serve as a broad introduction to the idea of the political, as well as an introduction to the faculty of this department and the ways in which they approach the political, and go about their work as students of politics. To me, a useful way of conceptualizing politics is to regard it as a means to denaturalize the worlds we live in: to ask questions like “how did things come to be thus?” “how did our current ways of being, living and knowing emerge and consolidate themselves as normal or commonsensical?” “what kinds of labor – intellectual, material and psychological- go into producing our lives and what are the ways in which such labor is gendered and raced?”


You can expect to read –on average- a book or its equivalent every week and there will be a number of different sorts of writing that you will do over the course of the semester. A 5-page long distillation of what you think of as constituting the political will be due at the end of the semester. If you have any further questions regarding POLS 600 (which is “strongly recommended” for all new incoming grad students to the program) email me at krishna@hawaii.edu