Course Overview

What is power and who has the authority to wield it? In what ways do we govern ourselves and in what ways do others govern us? How do we understand civic discourse, civic duty and community? In what ways do communities on the margins of society express power?

This course examines the interplay of two fundamental political concepts: ideology and power. We begin with the various ways that we make sense of our political environment, examining our personal beliefs and how they translate onto larger macro-ideological configurations such as liberalism, socialism, Conservatism, totalitarianism. We then examine ideological configurations of marginalized groups and entertain questions relating to power, domination, agency and authority.

This is an online course delivered through Laulima. As an online course, you are required to participate in the course discussions electronically. In order to do this, you must have a reliable connection to the internet (DSL, LAN, or cable connection desirable), access to Laulima, and have basic competency using web browsers and email. Students are expected to participate weekly on the discussion board and in course chat room regarding the assigned readings and lectures. Students will also write weekly response papers plus a longer writing assignment.
ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

You are assessed by the effort you put into demonstrating your understanding of course material.

Participation (20%)

You are required to participate in weekly discussion board conversations as well as scheduled chats on laulima. You are expected to contribute your thoughts, reactions, questions and responses online in the class. You will ask ONE critical question based on the week’s reading each week to be posted to the weekly discussion board. You will also respond to at least one of your fellow student’s questions by replying to the posted question. You are required to post AT LEAST one response to your classmates’ questions.

Labels: Question: last name WK1Q
Response: last name WK1R

Please when you hit the reply key change the subject line before you post your response. Clear labeling helps me to keep track of your work and give you appropriate credit for your posts, so thank you in advance for your cooperation on this matter.

Participation in the discussion board conversations is critical to your success in this class and to the success of your fellow students. If you don’t “attend,” you can’t participate and missing week after week of class is equivalent to missing entire chunks of the semester of an in-person class.

Participation points: 2 points per week - 1 pt for your question; 1 point for response to another students question. 20 points total

Response Papers (40%)

These are your personal critical reactions to each week’s lecture and reading assignment. Please note that the lectures are not necessarily on the same topic as the readings. The papers should be 300 words (approximately one page double-spaced with 1 inch margins). 4 points possible for each response paper. Points allocated based on degree to which you incorporate the lecture topic with current events and/or your personal experiences in your response.

Lectures and course readings are in the Resources section of Laulima.
Critical Analysis Paper (40%)

The Critical Analysis Paper is a review of two newspaper articles that deal with the same political issue but from different ideological perspectives. The paper evaluates the arguments and ideological perspective in each of the articles and your analysis of their arguments. The final paper should be a minimum of 2000 words.

The paper will be completed in three stages:

1. Selection of articles.
   a. In this first stage of the writing process you identify the articles you will be comparing. The Resources section of laulima has a list of suggested topic areas and sources for articles. If you need help finding articles please identify a subject area that you are interested in and I will assist you in finding articles.
   b. 5 Points possible.

2. First Draft:
   a. Use this template to write your critical analysis.
      i. Part 1. Introduce the two articles you are comparing. What is the subject matter that the two authors are writing about?
      ii. Part 2. What is author A’s main argument? What evidence does s/he use to support his/her argument?
      iii. Part 3. What is author B’s main argument? What evidence does s/he use to support his/her argument?
      iv. Part 4. What are the ideological differences between the two writers?
      v. Part 5. Conclusion: which argument do you find more compelling and why.
   b. 15 Points possible.

   a. Revised first draft based on feedback, readings, and online class discussion of course material.

Weekly Posting Schedule

Sunday midnight
Posts to discussion board

Friday midnight
Critical Paper 1 6/19
Critical Paper 2 7/10
Critical Paper 3 8/7

Response papers
All other Fridays during term. (8 total)

Reading List

Readings will be posted to the course laulima site. Included are selections from:


Howes, and Osorio, eds. The Value of Hawai‘i: Knowing the Past, Shaping the Future 2010.


Turabian, Kate L. A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers. 7th ed. 2007

Please check laulima for additional readings.

Grades Based on Point Spread:

A+ = 100+
A = 99-90
B = 89-80
C = 79-70
D = 69-60
F = 59 or lower
Policies

**SUBMITTING PAPERS:** Please submit Weekly Responses and Critical Paper drafts in laulima dropbox.

**Labeling:**
Weekly Response: Student last name WR (due date)
Example: Baker WR(6-12)

Critical Paper: Student Name CP(1,2,or 3)

Extra Credit: I will return corrected assignments via dropbox as well. For extra credit you may revise and re-submit any assignment that has been turned in on time. 1 point will be given for substantive revisions.

**LATE WORK:** If you have special circumstances that prevent you from turning an assignment in on time PRIOR arrangements must be made. Otherwise, late work will be marked down by 10% for every day past the deadline. Late work is not eligible for extra credit.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** The work you do must be your own. You will build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others. This means you must properly cite the ideas and/or research of others when using it in your own writing, presentations, and other assignments. It is your responsibility to be in compliance with the university’s policies regarding academic dishonesty. Any academic dishonesty—such as plagiarism—will result in failure of the course. (See: http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm).

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you need reasonable accommodations because of a disability, I am happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program to meet your access needs. Please email me privately to discuss your specific needs.

**Dialogue and Solidarity**
You do not have to agree with your classmates or me 100% of the time, or at any time! But you do have to be willing to engage in dialogue, while remaining open to and respectful of others’ beliefs and opinions. Politics can arouse deep passions and emotions, and that can be powerful. However, it requires that we are extra mindful to treat one another with aloha.
**SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

Schedule of readings will be posted at beginning of term.

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<tr>
<th>Wk 1 (6/8-12)</th>
<th>Introductions</th>
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<td>Syllabus, political compass, personal ideology</td>
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<tr>
<th>Wk 2-4 (6/15-7/3)</th>
<th>Unit 1: Ideology and social imaginary</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Primary Texts: <em>Ideology: A Very Short Introduction</em> and <em>The Value of Hawai‘i, Modern Social Imaginaries</em> plus selected articles</td>
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<th>Wk 5-7 (7/6-7/24)</th>
<th>Unit 2: Power and social justice</th>
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<th>Wk 8-10 (7/27-8/14)</th>
<th>Unit 3: The imagined community Politics in the Futures</th>
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<td>How does the political shape our image of the future? Will the future be more of the same or are there emerging issues and trends that are re-shaping our images of the future?</td>
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<th>August 7th Midnight</th>
<th>Final writing assignment due</th>
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“Revolution is always based on land. Revolution is never based on begging somebody for an integrated cup of coffee.”

—Malcolm X