COURSE SYLLABUS
POLI 3440: The Politics of Fear

Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University
Winter 2013

Department of Political Science
Dalhousie University

Class Time: Monday 1:25-4:25
Location: Tupper Theatre C

Instructor: Dr. Margaret Denike
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Email: m.denike@dal.ca (Please use this Dal address, rather than the BLS or OWL system for any inquiries)
Office Hours: Monday 10-12, or by appointment

Teaching Asst: Kristian Rafuse
kristian.rafuse@dal.ca (All essay assignments are to be submitted electronically, and NOT in hard copy please, to this email address)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Focussing largely on post-9/11 US, this course will consider the instrumentality of fear and terror in public policy, and its role in fostering public opinion and managing social groups and populations. Drawing on interdisciplinary and theoretical analyses of sex and race discrimination, and working with documentary media, it will consider various ways in which sexual and racial politics are implicated in the production and proliferation of ‘terror’ in contemporary western societies, in practices perpetrated or sanctioned by both state and non-state actors. It will look at the recent discourses of terrorism and its representation in the media; philosophical considerations of anti-immigrant fear-mongering; and political analyses of the economy of “security” industries. It will also address the role of both state and corporate interest in disaster relief, epidemics, and other social crises.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Some of the course materials are available electronically, either through web links to library or internet resources (provided on the syllabus) or PDF documents available through the OWL Black System (WebCT). Many of the readings will be available in course reading package.

EVALUATION PROFILE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(Max 2000 words) Due Feb 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(Max 2000 words) Due Mar 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Mar 25</td>
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Grading Profile:

- 90-100 = A+
- 85-89.9 = A
- 80-84.9 = A-
- 77-79.9 = B+
- 73-76.9 = B
- 70-72.9 = B-
- 65-69.9 = C+
- 60-64.9 = C
- 55.9-50.9 = D
- 50 > F

Participation:

The preparation and participation of each and every student in the class discussions will determine the success of the course. Students are expected to attend every class, and to have completed the readings and given themselves time to think about them in advance of each class. The participation grade will be based on attendance; the completion of readings and preparation for discussion; and on the active, respectful participation in every seminar. Students are required to come to class with the reading for that week in hand, and to be ready to use the reading as a reference when answering questions about them. In advance of the classes, some discussion questions or other directions will at times be circulated by email, and students are expected to be prepared for these discussions and/or exercises.

Overview of Written Assignments:

This course requires you to write two short essays that address the leading themes and concepts of this course (specifically: the politics of fear and its relation to one (or more of the following themes): nationalism, racism, Islamophobia, sexual politics, imperialism, capitalism, neoliberalism, criminal accountability; media studies; studies in affect or emotion, or neuropolitics), while drawing on a) several of the materials listed in the syllabus of this courses—a minimum of three of the articles); and, if appropriate b) additional materials, ideally from peer-reviewed, scholarly journals and related sources.

Think of these assignments as a challenge to demonstrate your mastery of the course materials and the questions that these materials give rise to.
Further instructions for each written assignment will be provided in class. The general objectives of these assignments are as follows:

   a) Concerning comprehension, breadth of the materials that you cover, and accuracy of content. One objective of these assignments is for you to demonstrate your understanding and thoughtful analysis of several of the readings that are listed on the syllabus for this course, while supplementing your discussion and analysis of these readings with appropriate additional scholarly resources. It is also designed to assist you in developing and/or demonstrating the skills and practices of clearly and accurately representing, documenting, contextualizing, and contrasting the ideas and arguments of other writers on a given topic.

   b) Concerning style: Another objective is for you to demonstrate your ability to develop and properly document a coherent argument in academic essay format, with attention to a clear introduction or outline; relevant paragraph development, and accurate referencing and citations.

   c) Concerning method/approach. Another specific objective of this assignment is for you to demonstrate your understanding and appropriate application of gender and/or race analyses, or analysis concerning capitalism and economic exploitation, and a consideration of their how such critiques (or those based on other grounds, such as religion, ethnicity, and nationality) are implicated in the way that fear has been deployed in the public domain.
Schedule of Weekly Topics and Readings

Weeks and Topics

1. Jan 7
   Introduction and Overview of Topics and Readings
   Preliminary discussion:

   Film resources for the first 3 weeks
   
   - Documentary: BBC: The Power of Nightmares at: 
     http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/the-power-of-nightmares/ especially at 45 mins...
   
   - Documentary resource: Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11
   
   - Documentary: Century of the Self (first 10 minutes, as an intro to Edward Bernays, 
     Freud’s nephew; the birth of public relations (at 28-30 minutes); the use of fear (of communism) to manipulate ‘the masses’ at 1:26:00:
   
   - Documentary: The Culture of Fear, available at:
     http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/culture-of-fear/
   
   - Documentary: A Virus Called Fear:
     http://topdocumentaryfilms.com/virus-called-fear/
   
   - YouTube Lecture: The Psychology of Politics. (Jan 2012) On the idea of emotions empowering political views: on how attitudes toward some issues can predict others; how conservatism is associated with a fear of uncertain):
     http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=susu-3upvuA&feature=youtu.be
   
   - Documentary: weapons of Mass Deception. At:

2. Jan 14
   Theorizing Fear in Contemporary Western Societies
   
     N.Y.: Continuum, pp.123-141.
   
     pp. 3-37.
   

Reference:

   
   
   
     Conflict, and Media’ 1(1): 37-54 Available at:
http://www.milkingtheherd.com/media%20clips/Notes%20Towards%20Politics%20of%20Fear.pdf

- *David Altheide*, “Terrorism and the National Security University” (available on YouTube)

3. **Jan 21**

**Fear Mongering, Myth-Making, and Capital Cashing in on the “Shock Doctrine”**


Reference:


- For a current interview on the role of social media, western relationships with Islamic ideology; and the impossibility of an ‘us vs. them’ mentality that fuelled the war on terror, see: Interview by Tavis Smiley of the comparative religions scholar Reza Aslan: [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/interviews/#top](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/tavissmiley/interviews/#top)

4. **Jan 28**

**Critical Responses to 9/11: Snapshots**

- Catherine MacKinnon, “Women’s September 11th: Rethinking the Law of Armed Conflict,” *Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues*. Cambridge:
Harvard University Press, 259-278

Resources:
- Documentary Film: *Power and Terror*

5. **Feb 4 (Essay 1 due)**
   **States of Emergency and Legal Exceptionalism**
   When does International Law Apply?
   - Military Order of November 13, 2001: Detention, Treatment and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism. Available at: [http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/eo/mo-111301.htm](http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/eo/mo-111301.htm)
   - See, in particular, the Memorandum for the President of Roberto Gonzales (January 25, 2002). At: [http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB127/02.01.25.pdf](http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB127/02.01.25.pdf)

   Additional Resources:

6. **Feb 11**
   **Guest Speaker: Gary Kinsman**
   **The Social Construction of Fear and Struggles of Resistance**
   **Homophobia, Nationalism, Homo-nationalism**

Reference

7. Feb 18
Fear and Contagion: Racism and Public Policy
National Identity and Racial Purity
• Sherene Razack, “Race thinking and the Camp”, Casting Out: The eviction of Muslims from Western law and Politics (University of Toronto Press, 2008).

Additional Resources
8. Feb 25 Spring break. No class

9. March 4
   Guest Speaker: Frank Harvey
   The Homeland Security Dilemmas National Security Threats and the Terrorism Industry
   - Frank Harvey, debate on Canada-US border security with David T. Jones in International Journal. Spring 2012; Vol. 67, No. 2

10. Mar 11 (Essay 2 due)
    Neuroscience, Neuropolitics, and Emotion
    - William Connolly, “The Media and Think Tank Politics” and/or selections on affect studies from the Affect Theory Reader

    Resources:
    - How People are Manipulated by Fear and Propaganda (Youtube, 5 mins): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H86-JN2sRXQ&feature=fvwp&NR=1
    - Edward Bernays and the Art of Public Manipulatin (youtube, 9 mins): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIMmGrG1ZKU

11. March 18

12. March 25 Test

13. April 1
    Accountability under Domestic and International Law

● Materials on the work of Francis Boyle, and Lawyers Against War, using international law to pursue and indictment against Bush.: “Bush to the Hague”: Available at: [http://www.bushtothehague.org/](http://www.bushtothehague.org/)

● Lawyers against the War: letter campaign to Canadian MPS to ban Bush’s entry to Canada (under intl law): Available at: [http://www.lawyersagainstthewar.org/letters/LAW_letter_re_George_Bush__20110825.pdf](http://www.lawyersagainstthewar.org/letters/LAW_letter_re_George_Bush__20110825.pdf)

April 8

● Public Hearings on State Responses to 9/11: Discussion