

Contemporary Political Theory: This course is intended as a general introduction to political theory since 1900, organized around the theme of power and politics. Questions include: What is political power? How has it been exercised and by whom? Who *should* have power? Are power and violence inescapably intertwined? Do those without conventional political power (from miners in Appalachia to unemployed and unhoused Egyptians, enslaved laborers in Jamaica to imprisoned Polish solidarity activists) define power differently from those who traditionally wield it? Are those who seek to transform political power inevitably transformed by it? Does the exercise of political power by definition transform the very exercise of political power? How have technologies of surveillance and control by medical, psychiatric, computer and security experts altered where power is and how it operates? Authors include Hannah Arendt, bell hooks, Michel Foucault, Bertrand de Jouvenel, and James C. Scott.