ABUSE OF POWER

Objectives and Approach
Power is a crucial part of politics. Yet, power can be, and often is, abused. This course surveys different forms of power abuse. Since the abuse of power is not confined by national boundaries, the course is broadly cross-national. In the first class meetings, we will discuss the nature of power and its potential abuse. The course will then survey various abuses of power, such as agenda manipulation, rent-seeking, electoral fraud, extortion, corruption, exploitation, and gross political oppression. We will first examine abuses of power under democracy and later also turn to autocratic settings. Generally, we will gradually move from more benign abuses to more severe forms. We will use a variety of teaching materials. Some readings employ analytical tools from political economy, but the course presupposes no particular background in that field, only a willingness to learn. The course is supported by a TritonEd Blackboard account, where we will post the syllabus, announcements, assignments, and lecture slides.

Course Assignments and Grading
Course assignments include (1) an in-class midterm, (2) a 2000-3000 word paper, and (3) an in-class final examination. In-class tests will consist of objective as well as essay questions. The paper will be on your choice among an assigned set of topics related to course readings. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward your grade. If your final exam grade is better than the average of your midterm and paper, the final will count 50% and each of the other assignments 25% toward your written assignment grade. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third. Class attendance is required, and participation will count for 10% of your final course grade (with written assignments counting for 90%). You will need to complete all the written assignments to pass the course. Late papers will be penalized. Tests will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Incompletes or special exams will in accordance with UCSD policy be given only on the basis of timely petitions in pressing and properly documented cases.

Academic Integrity
Fair and effective education requires academic integrity. The General Catalog spells out the relevant UCSD rules. Note especially the strict prohibition against plagiarism, i.e., submitting as your own work or without proper attribution something done wholly or in part by another person. Plagiarism includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments as well as including in your work passages that have been copied more or less verbatim from unattributed sources. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are individual, and you are not allowed to collaborate with any person in or outside this class. In-class tests will be closed-book, with no aids allowed. As required by UCSD policy, any suspected violation of academic integrity will without exception be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Teaching Assistant
Alex Verink (averink@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant for this course. His office hours will be Thursdays 12-2 and by appointment in SSB 332.
Books and Materials
The following books have been ordered by the UCSD bookstore. Shorter assignments will be made from other readings, as listed below. All readings will be placed on electronic or hard reserve at the Geisel Library. All readings are required.


Calendar
Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for October 20, and the papers will be due on November 17. The final examination will be given on Monday, December 5, between 3:00 and 5:59 pm, at a location to be announced. All class schedules are subject to change.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

**Thursday, September 22:** Introduction: Political Power and Its Abuse
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Introduction.

**Tuesday, September 27:** Power, Liberty, and Democracy
Gaventa, chap. 1.
Riker, pp. 1-12.

**Thursday, September 29:** Majority Rule, Elections, and Voting

**Tuesday, October 4:** Voting Cycles, Strategic Voting and Agenda Control

**Thursday, October 6:** Delegation and Agency Problems

**Tuesday, October 11:** Rent Extraction and Extortion
Thursday, October 13: Democratic Exploitation: Central Appalachia
Gaventa, chaps. 1-4 and 10.

Tuesday, October 18: The Logic of Power
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 1-2.

Thursday, October 20: Midterm Examination

Tuesday, October 25: Rigging the Game: Electoral Fraud
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 3.
M. Steven Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005, chap. 3.

Thursday, October 27: The Power of the Purse
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 4-5.

Tuesday, November 1: Corruption
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 6.
Rose-Ackerman, chaps. 1-3 and 6.

Thursday, November 3: Combating Corruption
Rose-Ackerman, chaps. 7-9, 11-12.

Tuesday, November 8: Foreign Aid
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 7.

Thursday, November 10: War and Revolt
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 8-9.

Tuesday, November 15: Predation and Totalitarian Government
Applebaum, Introduction, chaps. 1 and 3.

Thursday, November 17: Totalitarianism: The Russian Revolution and the GULAG
Applebaum, chaps. 6-8, 10-11, and 17.

Papers Due

Tuesday, November 22: Study Day

Tuesday, November 29: The Horrors of the GULAG
Applebaum, chaps. 22-23, 26-27, and Epilogue: Memory.

Thursday, December 1: Taming Power
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 10.
Riker, chap. 10.

Monday, December 5: Final Examination (3:00 – 5:59 pm, location TBA)