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 use and 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, using a variety of teaching materials we will gradually move from more benign abuses to more severe forms. 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 Assistants
Sam Williams (sdwillia@ucsd.edu) and Yeilim Cheong (yechueong@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistants for this course. Both will have office hours in SSB 347: Sam Williams on Mondays 3:30-4:30 and Thursdays 12:00-1:00 or by appointment; Yeilim Cheong on Tuesdays 12-2 or by appointment.
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 24, and the papers will be due on November 21. The final examination will be given on Thursday, December 12, 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 26: Introduction: Political Power and Its Abuse
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Introduction.
Shepsle, chap. 1.

Tuesday, October 1: Power, Liberty, and Democracy
Gaventa, chap. 1.

Thursday, October 3: Majority Rule, Elections, and Voting
Shepsle, pp. 41-74.

Tuesday, October 8: Voting Cycles, Strategic Voting and Agenda Control
Shepsle, pp.156-85, 191-217.

Thursday, October 10: The Logic of Power
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 1-2.

Tuesday, October 15: 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 17: Delegation and Agency Problems
Shepsle, chaps. 11-12.

Tuesday, October 22: Democratic Exploitation: Central Appalachia
Gaventa, chaps. 1-4 and 10.

Thursday, October 24: Midterm Examination

Tuesday, October 29: The Power of the Purse
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 4-5.

Thursday, October 31: Rent Extraction and Extortion

Tuesday, November 5: Corruption
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 6.
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, pp. 3-36.

Thursday, November 7: Combating Corruption
Rose-Ackerman and Palifka, pp. 233-55 and 275-93.

Tuesday, November 12: Foreign Aid
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 7.

Thursday, November 14: War and Revolt
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chaps. 8-9.

Tuesday, November 19: Predation and Totalitarian Government
Applebaum, Introduction, chaps. 1 and 3.

Thursday, November 21: Totalitarianism: The Russian Revolution and the GULAG
Applebaum, chaps. 6-8, 10-11, and 17.
Papers Due

Tuesday, November 26: Study Day

Tuesday, December 3: The Horrors of the GULAG
Applebaum, chaps. 22-23, 26-27, and Epilogue: Memory.

Thursday, December 5: Taming Power
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chap. 10.

Thursday, December 12: Final Examination (3:00 – 5:59 pm, location TBA)