ABUSE OF POWER

Objectives and Approach
The exercise of power is a crucial part of politics. Yet, power can be, and often is, abused. This course surveys many different forms of power abuse. Since the abuse of power is by no means confined by national boundaries, the course will be broadly cross-national. In the initial meetings, we shall discuss the nature of power and its abuse. The course will then survey a variety of abuses of power, such as agenda manipulation, rent-seeking, fraud, extortion, corruption, exploitation, and gross political oppression. Generally speaking, we shall begin with more benign abuses and gradually move on to more severe forms. Also, the course will initially focus on abuse of power in countries and contexts that are most likely to be familiar, such as legislative politics in the United States and Europe. Later, we shall examine abuses of power in settings that may be less familiar. The course will use a variety of teaching materials. Some readings employ analytical tools from the field of political economy, but the course presupposes no particular background in that field, only a willingness to learn.

Course Assignments and Grading
Course assignments include (1) a paper, (2) an in-class midterm, 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. The midterm and the paper will count equally toward your course 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 course grade. In the opposite case, each major assignment will count one-third. Class attendance is required, and course grades may be adjusted, up or down, for participation (counting for up to 10% of the grade). No student who fails to complete one or more written assignments will pass the course. Late papers will be penalized. Tests will be based on lectures, presentations, and readings. Incompletes or special exams will be given only in accordance with UCSD policy on the basis of timely petitions in pressing and properly documented cases.

Academic Integrity
Fair and effective education requires academic integrity, any violation of which (such as cheating) is a serious matter. The General Catalog spells out UCSD regulations concerning academic integrity. 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. This prohibition includes unauthorized collaboration on course assignments as well as including passages copied more or less verbatim from unattributed sources. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments in this course are individual, and no collaboration with any person in or outside this class is permitted. In-class tests will be closed-book, with no aids allowed. Academic dishonesty will be punished by a grade penalty up to automatic failure, and any suspected case will without exception be reported to the Academic Integrity Office for disciplinary action.

Teaching Assistant
Francisco Cantu (fcantu@ucsd.edu) will be the Teaching Assistant and will announce his office hours.
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 ordinary reserve at the Geisel Library. All readings are required under otherwise indicated. Details will be discussed in class.


Calendar
Tentatively, the midterm has been scheduled for January 31, and the papers will be due on March 5. The final examination will be given on Tuesday, March 19, between 3:00 and 5:59 pm. All dates and class schedules are subject to change by announcement in class.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

**Tuesday, January 8:** Introduction: Political Power and Its Abuse
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, Introduction.

**Thursday, January 10:** Power, Persuasion and Manipulation
Gaventa, ch. 1.
Riker, Preface.

**Tuesday, January 15:** Social Choice
Riker, chs. 1-2.

**Thursday, January 17:** Heresthetics and Agenda Control
Riker, chs. 4, 6, 12, and Conclusion.

**Tuesday, January 22:** Delegation, Democracy, and Agency Problems

**Thursday, January 24:** Coming to Power
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chs. 1-2.

**Tuesday, January 29:** Staying in Power
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chs. 3 and 8.

**Thursday, January 31:** Midterm Examination
Tuesday, February 5: The Power of the Purse
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, ch. 4.

Thursday, February 7: Spending and Taking
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, chs. 5 and 7.

Tuesday, February 12: Rent Extraction and Extortion

Thursday, February 14: Corruption
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, ch. 6.
Rose-Ackerman, chs. 1-3 and 6.

Tuesday, February 19: Corruption II: How to Keep Government Clean
Rose-Ackerman, chs. 7-9, 11-12.

Thursday, February 21: Rigging Elections
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, ch. 9.
M. Steven Fish, Democracy Derailed in Russia. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2005, ch. 3.

Tuesday, February 26: Exploitation
Gaventa, chs. 1-3.

Thursday, February 28: Exploitation II: Central Appalachia
Gaventa, chs. 4 and 10.

Tuesday, March 5: Predation and Totalitarian Government
Applebaum, Introduction.

Tuesday, March 5: Papers Due

Thursday, March 7: Bolshevism and the GULAG
Applebaum, chs. 1, 3, 6-8, and 10-11.

Tuesday, March 12: Horrors of the GULAG
Applebaum, chs.17, 22-23, and 26-27.

Thursday, March 14: What Is to Be Done?
Applebaum, Epilogue.
Bueno de Mesquita and Smith, ch. 10.

Tuesday, March 19: Final Examination (3:00 – 5:59 pm, location TBA)