

Human Rights Violations, Protest Policing and Democracy:
The Case of U.S. State Repression

Government and Politics, GVPT459h
Spring 2002
M, W: 3:30-4:45
Class Locale: JMZ 103
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The cost of liberty is less than the price of repression.
W.E.B. Dubois

INTRODUCTION

Most discussions of human rights concern non-democratic contexts: e.g., the former Soviet Union and its satellites, the Nazi regime, Mobutu's regime or Castro's Cuba. As a result, our understanding of state repression within the context of modern democracies is somewhat limited. This class will explore the topic within the specific case of the United States. The case proves to be especially important within the aftermath of the September 11th. There are now more threats than ever to American citizens; not only those imposed by foreign and domestic terror networks but also by the political authorities in the U.S. itself.

It should be clear: we are not discussing the legitimacy of state action within this class. Rather, we are exploring the specific actions themselves, assessing why they take place and where, and identifying what some of the implications might be for political discourse, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, and a host of other rights.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course is run on 4 components:

- 1) Careful reading of the assigned material
- 2) Active participation in class
(20% of the grade – assessed through class discussion and in-class quizzes)
 - Let us be clear: merely speaking is not sufficient to be counted as class discussion. The points must be relevant to the issues being addressed at the time and they must exhibit that you have been reading the material.
 - The professor administers the quizzes randomly.

- 3) 1 midterm examination
(40% per examination)
- The examination is short essay format and there will be no study questions provided. The questions will be directly related to the reading that has been assigned as well as the lectures. If the student has problems with writing clearly, then they should immediately seek assistance from the writing center. Essays are evaluated by the following criteria: clarity in argumentation and writing, evidence, and the ability to integrate all previously assigned information.
 - If the examination is missed for any legitimate reason (e.g., death of relative, medical emergency) all information (e.g., death certificates, doctor's notes) will be verified before a make-up examination is provided. Individuals with illegitimate/non-verifiable excuses will not be allowed to take the examination. **Make-up examinations are inherently more difficult than the original examination and thus it is strongly recommended that the exam not be missed.**
- 4) 1 final project (40% of the grade)
- The final project will constitute an original piece of research regarding a topic provided by the professor as well as a brief in-class presentation.
 - The structure of the examination will be determined after the midterm examination as it will be uniquely tailored to the capabilities of the class as a whole.
 - Criteria for examination include: thoroughness, creativity, and clarity.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

As participation is crucial to knowledge acquisition and adequate assessment of individual students, attendance is taken randomly throughout the year. Three unexcused absences will result in the student being dropped from the course.

READING MATERIAL

There are 5 books that are required:

POLITICAL REPRESSION IN MODERN AMERICA by GOLDSTEIN
FREEDOM AT RISK by CURRY
PUNISHING HATE by LAWRENCE
LEGISLATING PRIVACY by REGAN
POLICING PROTEST by DELLA PORTA

~~CLASS SCHEDULE~~

Jan 28: Overview of class and syllabus

THE ROOTS OF REPRESSION, 1870-1970

Jan 30: Goldstein xxi-60
Feb 4: Goldstein 137-192
Feb 6: Goldstein 237-396
Feb 11: Goldstein 427-546
Feb 13: Goldstein 547-574

THAT 80'S SHOW

Feb 18: Curry 1-85
Feb 20: Curry 86-170
[Feb 25 – Rwanda]
[Feb 27 – Rwanda]
[Mar 4 – Rwanda]
Mar 6: Curry 171-255
Mar 11: Curry 255-340
Mar 13: Curry 341-423

THE COERCION THAT HATE PRODUCE

Mar 18: Lawrence 1-44
Mar 20: Lawrence 45-79
[Mar 25 – Spring Break]
[Mar 27 – Spring Break]
Apr 1: Lawrence 80-160
Apr 3: Lawrence 161-178
Additional Assignment & Midterm Assignment

WHO AND WHAT'S ON THE LINE?

Apr 8: Regan 1-68
Apr 10: Regan 69-143
Apr 15: Regan 144-211
Apr 17: Regan 212-244

THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLY WITH POLICE ESCORT

Apr 22: Della Porta and Reiter 1-69
Apr 24: Della Porta and Reiter 70-142
Apr 29: Della Porta and Reiter 143-212
Final Assignments Discussed
May 1: Della Porta and Reiter 213-270

**WHAT ARE WE LEFT WITH,
BIG BROTHER, HOMELAND SECURITY OR BOTH?**

May 6: Final Assignments

May 8: Final Assignments
May 13: Final Assignments