

Haddad

Political Science 250: Introduction to Contemporary Political Thought (Spring 2009)

The Politics of Violation and Suffering: Theories and reflections on humans harming humans from Auschwitz to Los Angeles to Abu Ghraib

We will meet in PPHAC 338 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:20 to 3:30.

Please visit me in my office (Comenius 112) on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3:45 and 5 p.m., or make an appointment.

You can reach me by email at haddad@moravian.edu or by phone at 610.861.1559.

I prefer speaking with you in person. Please make use of my office hours.

The Politics of Violation and Suffering is a course designed to provide an in-depth study Darius Rejali's *Torture and Democracy* (2007). Professor Rejali will be on campus for the first few days of the semester. We will attend his public lecture, and Rejali will also visit our course. We will read *Torture and Democracy* in the context of key theorists referenced by Rejali and important to contemporary political theory, including competing arguments regarding the psychology of torture and the power of legal protections and remedies. Although we begin with Rejali's work, readings will respond to the direction of our discussions. Students are responsible for keeping up with readings assignments determined at the end of every class. Written evaluation will take the form of a sequence of assignments culminating in a final research paper. Students select topics in consultation with the instructor. This is an advanced political theory course. While there is no formal prerequisite, I recommend that you speak with me, if you are uncertain of your preparedness for this course.

The following texts are available at the Moravian College Bookstore:

Darius Rejali, *Torture and Democracy*

Elaine Scarry, *The Body in Pain*

Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

Jack Donnelly, *Universal Human Rights in Theory and Practice*

Catharine McKinnon, *Are Women Human?*

Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

Additional required readings will be assigned and distributed on Blackboard over the course of the semester.

It is an important requirement of this course that you bring your text to class and are prepared to discuss the argument with references to specific passages. Your required preparation for this course includes careful reading, taking notes, formulating questions, and collecting textual evidence so that we can work with the text in class together. Diligent independent note taking is required.

Tuesday, January 20

**PROFESSOR REJALI WILL VISIT OUR CLASS:
Read pages 1-44 of *Torture and Democracy*. Write down
two questions for Rejali and bring two copies of your
questions to class.**

**REQUIRED EVENING LECTURE:
Peace and Justice Scholar DARIUS REJALI
"Torture and Democracy: What Now?"
7:00 p.m., Prosser, HUB**

Thursday, January 22 Introduction and syllabus
Discussion of class visit and public lecture

Tuesday, January 27 Meet at Reeves Library

Thursday, January 29 Rejali, *Torture and Democracy (TD)*, pages 45-63 and 65-90

Friday, January 30 Two-page essay due by noon (e-mail)

From here on, the direction of our discussion will determine the next reading. Please familiarize yourself with the table of content of all of our texts and be prepared to make suggestions. Our open schedule also allows us to view relevant films and to invite guests with special expertise in our area of study. We can also consider a trip to New York to visit human rights organizations. Ideas welcome!

Tuesday, February 3

Thursday, February 5

Tuesday, February 10

Thursday, February 12

Tuesday, February 17

Thursday, February 19

Friday, February 20 Research paper proposal due by noon to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206

Tuesday, February 24

Thursday, February 26

SPRING RECESS

Tuesday, March 10

Thursday, March 12

Thursday, March 19

Tuesday, March 24

Thursday, March 26

Tuesday, March 31

Thursday, April 2

Tuesday, April 7

Thursday, April 9

Friday, April 10

Paper #2 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by noon

EASTER RECESS

Tuesday, April 14

Thursday, April 16

Tuesday, April 21

Thursday, April 23

Tuesday, April 28

Thursday, April 30 **Last day of class**

Assignments and evaluation:

Engagement	30%	
Paper #1	10%	1/30
Research paper proposal	20%	2/20
Research paper draft	required, but not graded	3/20
Paper #2	10%	4/10
Research paper final version	30%	4/24

You cannot pass this class without completing all assignments, including the ungraded draft. I do not accept late papers except in the case of documented emergencies. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for extensions.

Engagement Rubric

A:Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions;

contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.

B:Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions;

contribution of independent questions; engagement of the arguments of others.

C:Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.

D:Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.

F: Persistent, vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

What you need to know about taking Political Science 250

1. In light of the high value I place on your engagement in class, I discourage all unnecessary absences. Please contact me regarding documented absences and emergency situations.

2. I invite you to visit my office hours. Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. You may also contact me by e-mail, haddad@moravian.edu. Wednesdays and Thursdays (except for faculty meetings) between 3:45 and 5:00 p.m. and by appointment.

3. Please support a culture of discussion: turn off your phone, do not bring food to class, learn the names of other students, engage others intellectually, and take responsibility for the quality of our collective work.

6. Plagiarism will result in failure of the particular assignment. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See <http://moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm>

7. Students with a documented learning disability who desire accommodations for this course must first visit the Office of Learning Services (Extension 1510) and follow College procedures on receiving accommodations.