Catalogue description: “Theories, approaches, concepts, and issues developed or raised in history of political philosophy and thought. Pre: any 100- or 200-level POLS course, or consent.” This version of Political Science 335 will emphasize cinematic and other visual culture approaches to political thought and philosophy. While focusing on the thinking of three political theorists from the western political theory canon – Thomas Hobbes, a contract theorist and David Hume and Adam Smith, sentiment theorists - the emphasis in our reading will be on the cinematic and/or visual aspects of their thinking as well as the difference between their perspectives on the social formation. We will also focus on the ways in which a variety of other, more recent philosophical orientations help us extract political thinking from films. And, finally, we will look at relationships between various aspects of the visual culture–political activism relationship.

Books to acquire for the course:


Meg McLagan and Yates McKee ed. *Sensible Politics* (Zone books, hard cover but many used on Amazon)

Reading assignments that are not in the above texts will be posted in the course’s Laulima site.

Grading: Everyone in the course begins with an A grade and keeps it as long as they remain present to the course (where “presence” includes showing up for class, posting reflections on the reading for each class – at least 200 words – in the Laulima site (in the class discussion section), and doing the mid term and final “exam”/papers (details to be provided).

Reading/viewing/discussion schedule

January:
10th Walter Benjamin “The work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reconstruction” On the web at: https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm (no reflection papers are due for this class – or for Thursdays).

12th Shapiro, “Hiroshima Temporalities” and a selection from Victor Burgin, The Remembered Film – posted in our Laulima site. Plus film viewing TBA

17th Shapiro, “Preface” to Reading Adam Smith - posted in Laulima

19th Shapiro, “Sovereignty and Exchange in the Orders of Modernity” (Chapter 1 from Reading Adam Smith – posted in Laulima.

24th Shapiro, “The Social Bond” (Chapter 3 in Reading Adam Smith). We will watch part of Ridley Scott’s film Blade Runner

26th A viewing of the rest of Blade Runner Write your reflections on the part of Blade Runner we watched on Tuesday.

31st Tamas Dobozy, “The Beautician” in his collection Siege 13 and Daniel Alarcon, “City of Clowns” in his collection War by Candlelight- posted in Laulima

February:

2nd Shapiro, “Hungarian Masks” – posted in Laulima plus a viewing of part of Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck’s film The Lives of Others.

7th A viewing of the rest of The Lives of Others. Write your reflections on the part of The Lives of Others we watched last Thursday.

9th Leviathan McPherson’s Introduction thru Hobbes’ p 84.

14th Agamben, a section from Stasis – posted in Laulima and Leviathan Chapter 28.

16th Shapiro, “The Light of Reason: Reading Leviathan with The Werckmeister Harmonies. – posted in Laulima. We will watch part of Bela Tarr’s film The Werckmeister Harmonies.

21st We’ll watch the rest of Werckmeister Harmonies. Write your reflections on the part of the film we saw last Thursday.

23rd Read all the sections in Leviathan quoted in Shapiro’s “The Light of Reason”

28th David Hume, “Of the Original Contract” (in Miller ed. Essays…. and Michel Foucault (selections from his writings) – posted in Laulima
March:


7\textsuperscript{th} Gilles Deleuze, Chapter 2 from Empiricism and Subjectivity: An Essay on Hume’s Theory of Human Nature and Shapiro, “The Ethics of Encounter: Unreading, Unmapping the Imperium” – both posted in Laulima.

9\textsuperscript{th} Shapiro, “The New Violent Cartography” from Cinematic Geopolitics –posted in Laulima, and a viewing of part of Michael Winterbottom’s The Road to Guantanamo.

14\textsuperscript{th} We will watch the rest of The Road to Guantanamo. Write your reflection papers on the part of the film you’ve already seen.

16\textsuperscript{th} Mid Term “exam” sent (due the 21\textsuperscript{st}). Kelly Oliver, “Alfred Hitchcock: Fowl Play and the Domestication of Horror,” in Phillips ed. And a selection from David Thomson, The Moment of Psycho.


23\textsuperscript{rd} (No reflection papers due) A viewing of parts of Hoop Dreams.

April


6\textsuperscript{th} Jeff Malpas, Wim Wenders, The Role of Memory,” in Phillips ed.

11\textsuperscript{th} Alison Ross, “Michelangelo Antonioni: The Aestheticization of Time and Experience in The Passenger. Plus a viewing of scenes from the film.

13\textsuperscript{th} Sensible Politics “Introducton” pp 9-26. Plus a viewing TBA

18\textsuperscript{th} Negar Azimi, “Iran in Pictures…” in Sensible Politics plus film viewing TBA

20\textsuperscript{th} Select a chapter from Sensible Politics and react to it.

25\textsuperscript{th} On video activism, a selection from Rune Saugmann Andersen, Remediating Security.

27\textsuperscript{th} no reflection papers due: videos from Andersen’s Remediating Security.
May

2nd discussion of final “exam”/papers.