

LS 811: Tradition and Modernity: On Sovereignty: Contemporary Dialogues on State, Politics and Power

Spring 2021

Mondays

Am Johal, Instructor

Course outline:

This course looks at the long and problematic challenge of examining sovereignty through critical discussions of the state, politics and power and the various theoretical entanglements and philosophical approaches from a range of theorists and writers in the 20th and 21st Century. The course will take a critical approach to re-examining contemporary democratic practices, neo-liberalism, neo-authoritarianism and various other forms and practices of the state in times of crisis. Beyond the reading list, the course will be supplemented with optional video lectures, podcasts and other materials to contextualize the materials in the course.

Selected Readings (Subject to Change):

Angela Davis

Angela Davis: An Autobiography, (New York: Random House, 1974).

Arundathi Roy

My Seditious Heart: Collected Non-Fiction. (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2019).

Carl Schmitt

The Concept of the Political. George D. Schwab, trans. (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1996).

George Manuel

The Fourth World: An Indian Reality. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2019).

Alain Badiou

Metapolitics, transl. by Jason Barker, (New York: Verso, 2005).

Walter Benjamin
Critique of Violence

Judith Butler
The Force of Non-Violence. (New York: Penguin Random House, 2020).

Wendy Brown
In the Ruins of Neoliberalism: The Rise of Antidemocratic Politics in the West (New York: Columbia University Press, 2019).

Jodi Dean
Comrade - An Essay on Political Belonging (London: Verso, 2019).

Glen Coulthard
Red Skin, White Masks: Rejecting the Colonial Politics of Recognition. (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014).

Leanne Simpson
As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom Through Radical Resistance (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2017).

Benjamin Bratton
The Stack: On Software and Sovereignty (Cambridge, Mass: 2015)

Joe Sacco
Paying the Land. (New York: Henry Holt and Co, 2020)

Grading:

Participation 25%

Weekly Reflections 25%

Presentations 20%

Final Paper 30%