

DRAFT

**Politics & Film
(On-Line)**

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Summer 2017 (June 26 – September 15)

(subject to minor revisions before the first day of class)

Political content tends to saturate many films, in both explicit and implicit ways. A primary goal of this class will be to examine the political relevance of films, as they relate to actual political events and developments. The required films are grouped by broad thematic categories, from the United States and various other countries. Starting from these examples, this course aims to characterize film as an especially apt medium for illustrating, defending, challenging, and engaging political ideas.

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment (804 PLC)

REQUIRED TEXT:

Elizabeth Haas, Terry Christiansen, and Peter J. Haas. *Projecting Politics: Political Messages in American Films*, 2nd edition. Routledge, 2015. Do not purchase the 1st edition of this book. Quizzes and the final exam (if you choose this option) for this course will be based off of the latest (2nd) edition and the required films.

SCHEDULE OF FILM SHOWINGS, AND ASSIGNED READINGS:

Note: You must obtain these films on your own and watch them at your own pace. Keep in mind that you may have to rent or buy the following movies, in some cases, but many of these films are available in the UO Knight Library, in your local library, on YouTube, or on Netflix.

QUIZ #1:

a) Violence of a Different Sort

In the Heat of the Night (USA, 1967, "109"); *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* (USA, 2012, 130")

b) Environmental Activism or Terrorism?

If a Tree Falls (USA, 2011, 85"); *The East* (USA, 2013, 116")

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 1-2.

QUIZ # 2:

a) Politicians

Milk (USA, 2008, 129"); *The Candidate* (USA, 1972, 110")

b) Conflict (Political & Personal)

The Company You Keep (USA, 2012, 121")

Trumbo (USA, 2015, 124")

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 3-6.

QUIZ # 3:

a) Individual against the State – Germany and Chile

The Lives of Others (Germany, 2007, “138”); *Missing* (USA, 1982, 122”)

b) Individual against the State – USA and Kenya

Snowden (USA, 2016,134”); *The Constant Gardener* (USA, 2005, “29”)

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 7-10.

QUIZ # 4:

a) Individual against the State – Ireland

The Crying Game (UK, 1992, 111”); *In the Name of the Father* (USA, 1993, 133”)

b) Scandal and Corruption

Inside Job (USA, 2010, 108”)

Client 9: The Rise and Fall of Eliot Spitzer (USA, 2010, 117 “)

Reading: *Projecting Politics*, Chapters 11-13.

EVALUATION

You will have to complete all quizzes, and (the final exam OR final paper) by September 15, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. However, you may proceed at your own pace; you could take three quizzes in one week or one per week, and even complete this course in a few weeks or a month. This is your choice.

QUIZZES: There are four quizzes in this class – each covering the four required films and 3-4 chapters in the textbook, as listed on the syllabus. All quizzes will be taken on-line via CANVAS. The quizzes are all contained within the folder called “Quizzes.” Fifty percent (50%) of your grade for the class will be based on these quizzes, all taken on-line via CANVAS. You will have 45 minutes to take each quiz, and you may re-take this quiz once, and the highest grade will be recorded. There are 20 multiple choice questions per quiz, but your second attempt may have different questions, as they are randomly picked from a larger test bank. These scores will then be averaged.

FINAL EXAM OR FINAL PAPER:

Option 1: Final Exam

Due to new mandatory security requirements, the final exam (worth 50% of your grade) must be taken in a setting where someone will check your ID and monitor your taking of the test. On-campus students can take their final exam at the SSIL Labs in McKenzie 445. Off-campus students in Portland can take this exam at the White Stag Building. All other students who are elsewhere, including foreign countries, will have to obtain a “Remote Proctor.” Information on how to do this will be sent to all students and is available on the CASIT website under “Off Campus Students.” You will only have

ONE chance to take this final exam. There will be 75 multiple choice questions, and you will have 120 minutes to complete this exam.

Option 2: Final Paper

Instead, you may opt out of the final exam and write a 7-10 page paper. This paper must be submitted through Veracite on the CANVAS website for this class. The topic of this paper may be of your own choosing, but must pertain directly to one of the required films and analysis from *Projecting Politics*. A critique of the analysis offered in this book is certainly acceptable, but not required. A paper guidelines sheet will be available on CANVAS.

Grading Scale:

A+	= 98 - 100	C+	= 78 - 79
A	= 92 - 97	C	= 72 - 77
A---	= 90 - 91	C--	= 70 - 71
B+	= 88 - 89	D+	= 68 - 69
B	= 82 - 87	D	= 62 - 67
B--	= 80 - 81	D-	= 60 - 61

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS:

- You will need regular access to a competent computer with web access.
- **No incompletes** can be given for this course due to its web-based nature. If you do not complete a quiz for any reason, you will receive a "0." If you have trouble accessing any quiz, please contact me immediately.
- All quizzes and the final exam must be completed by 11:59 p.m., September 15th.
- Please email me with any questions from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday-Friday, and I will respond within 24 hours.

CLASS WEB SITE:

- **CANVAS** This web site is the main web site used for this class. All class information will be run through this website.
- **Quizzes and Final Exam OR Paper – all due by September 15th by 11:59pm.**

PLEASE NOTE: It is a violation of the UO Student Conduct Code to open the required textbook or other materials during a quiz, collaborate or consult with another person during a quiz, share questions or answers with others, print out the quiz, or use a quiz or quiz answers provided by another person, or to pay another person or organization to assist you in taking these quizzes. If you engage in any of these activities even once, your grade for all the quizzes will be a zero, which will make it essentially impossible to pass the class.

