

PLSC 389

POWER, JUSTICE,
AND THE CITY

Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:30-3:50, Seigle 104

Professor Hayward

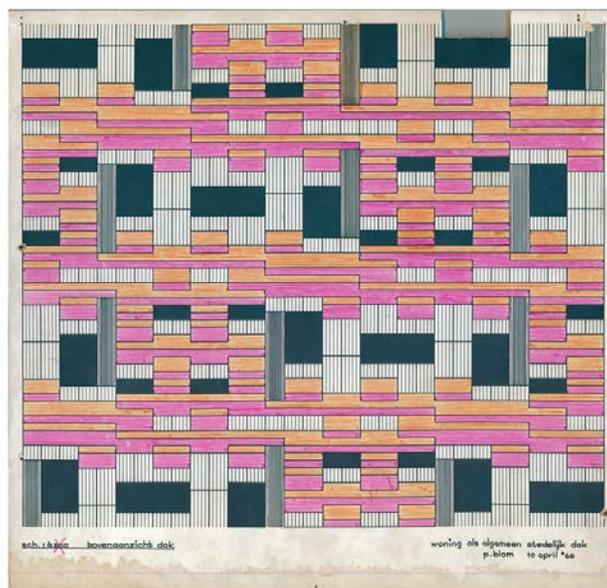
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This course examines questions of power and justice through the lens of the contemporary metropolis, with a focus on St. Louis specifically and American urban life more generally. It asks what power is and how we can best study and criticize power relations. It asks what justice requires and how we can realize, or more closely approximate, just institutions and practices. It explores racial hierarchy and racial injustice, the relationships among contemporary cities and their suburbs, and strategies for resisting power. By the end of the semester, you should have a sense of some of the challenges facing the American metropolis today, as well as the conceptual tools you need to think about those and related challenges in terms of power and social justice.



Design by Dutch Structuralist Piet Blom, 1965
(image credit: Het Nieuwe Instituut)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. You will write one in-class exam on the material that we cover in the first section of this course. The exam is on Monday, October 2. It counts for 20 percent of your grade.

NB: As you read and participate in class discussions, working your way through the material in the first module, we encourage you to take careful notes in the notebook that we will give you on the first day of class. You may bring this notebook with you to the exam and refer to your notes throughout.

2. You will produce a final project that consists of a photo essay and a seminar paper. You will have considerable leeway in choosing your topic. Your project should explore some aspect of power or justice through the lens of a place somewhere in St. Louis. All together, this project counts for 60 percent of your grade. However, it will be broken down into three distinct parts (see detailed grade breakdown below).

- A photo essay (15% of course grade)

You will create a collection of photographs that you take at a site somewhere in St. Louis (city or county) that is not on Wash U's campus. Your photo essay should tell a story or communicate an idea about an important theme related to power or justice through the lens of the place that you choose. You should plan to take about two dozen photos at your chosen site no later than the end of fall break and bring them to class with you on Wednesday, October 11. Your photo essay, which should include no more than 6 photos, is due Friday, October 13 at 5 PM.

- A paper prospectus (15% of course grade)

You will write a prospectus (in other words, a proposal for your final paper) that is 1-2 pages long, double-spaced. Your prospectus should build on the idea that your photo essay communicates, stating that idea in the form of the central thesis you will advance in your paper. It should also explain how you plan to develop and support that thesis your paper. Your prospectus is due Friday, November 10 at 5 PM. On Monday, November 20, we will have an in-class prospectus workshop, in which you will give feedback to your peers on their prospectuses and receive feedback on yours.

- A seminar paper (30% of course grade)

After receiving feedback and advice on your prospectus, you will write your final seminar paper, which should be about 10 pages long (double-spaced). This paper need not involve research outside the syllabus. However, it should engage and synthesize multiple readings covered over the course of the seminar and apply them to the idea explored in your photo essay. Your final paper is due Friday, December 8 at 5 PM.

3. Last but not least, it is crucial that you come to class, come on time, come prepared, and in general meet your obligations as a student in PJC. To encourage you to prepare well for class, we require that you answer a few simple questions, posting your answers to the course Canvas page by midnight the night before each class meeting. Together, HW questions, attendance, and class participation count for 20 percent of your grade.

COURSE MEETINGS AND READINGS

Introduction

Monday, August 28: Lauren Collins, “Pilvi Takala and the Art of Awkwardness”

Wednesday, August 30: APSA Conference / No class meeting

Monday, September 4: Labor Day / No class meeting

Module 1: Foundations

Wednesday, September 6: Clarissa Hayward and Steven Lukes, “Nobody to Shoot? Power, Structure, and Agency”

Optional: Steven Lukes, “Power: A Radical View”

Monday, September 11: Karl Maton, “Habitus,” pp. 49-60

Optional: Maton, “Habitus,” the rest

Wednesday, September 13: Pierre Bourdieu, “Structures, *Habitus*, Practices”

Monday, September 18: John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, sections 1-6

Optional: Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 3-22 (sections 1-4) and 54-65 (sections 10-11)

Wednesday, September 20: John Rawls, *Justice as Fairness: A Restatement*, sections 12, 13, 17, 20, and 21

Optional: Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, pp. 90-108 (sections 15-17), 118-122 (section 20), and 136-161 (sections 24-26)

Monday, September 25: Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, chs. 1-2
Optional: Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference*, ch. 8

Wednesday, September 27: Alasia Nuti, *Injustice and the Reproduction of History*, chs. 2-3

Monday, October 2: Exam review (no new readings)

Wednesday, October 4: In-class exam

Monday, October 9: Fall break / No class meeting



“All Hands On Deck,” Damon Davis (photo credit: Getty Images)

Module 2: Power, (In)justice, and Race

Wednesday, October 11: In-class photo essay workshop (no new readings)

* Friday, October 13: Final photo essays due, 5 PM *

Monday, October 16: Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton and, *American Apartheid*
chs. 1-2

Wednesday, October 18: Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton and, *American Apartheid*
chs. 3-4 [E]

Joseph Heathcott, “Black Archipelago: Politics and Civic
Life in the Jim Crow City”
Monday, October 23: Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, chs. 8-10 [E]

Wednesday, October 25: Kenneth Jackson, *Crabgrass Frontier*, chs. 11-13 [E]

Monday, October 30: Guest lecture: Molly Metzger, Brown School
“Advancing Racial Equity in Inclusionary Housing Programs”
“Welcome Home: A Policy Briefing Book for Housing Opportunity
in St. Louis County”

Wednesday, November 1: No class meeting; students schedule one-on-one meetings with Prof.
Hayward or Alexis Jang to consult on paper prospectuses

Monday, November 6: Guest lecture: Colin Gordon, University of Iowa, History
Readings TBA

Wednesday, November 8: St. Louis segregation documents, 1911-1915
“Leaving the Negro Out,” (*St. Louis Argus* editorial, 1927)

* Friday, November 10: Paper prospectus due, 5 PM *

Monday, November 13:

Alexander Von Hoffmann, “Why They Built Pruitt-Igoe”

Roger Montgomery, “Pruitt-Igoe: Policy Failure or Societal Symptom”

+

Film: *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* (to be shown in class)

Wednesday, November 15:

Scott Henderson, “‘Tarred with the Exceptional Image’: Public Housing and Popular Discourse, 1950-1990” [E]

Film: *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* (continued)

Monday, November 20:

In-class prospectus workshop (no new readings)

Wednesday, November 22:

Thanksgiving break / No class meeting



Module 3: Resisting Power, Fighting Injustice

Monday, November 27:

Henry David Thoreau, “Resistance to Civil Government”

Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

Film: *How to Survive a Plague* (to be shown in class)

Wednesday, November 29:

James C. Scott, *Two Cheers for Anarchism*, ch. 1

David Graeber, *The Democracy Project*, ch. 1

Film: *How to Survive a Plague* (to be shown in class)

Monday, December 4:

Frances Fox Piven, *Challenging Authority: How Ordinary People Change America*, chs. 1 and 2

Film: *Whose Streets? We Will Not Go Quietly* (to be shown in class)

Wednesday, December 6:

Frances Fox Piven, *Challenging Authority: How Ordinary People Change America*, ch. 5

Film: *Whose Streets? We Will Not Go Quietly* (to be shown in class)

*** Friday, December 8: Seminar paper due, 5 PM ***



Still image from the documentary *Whose Streets?* (image credit: Magnolia Pictures)