

SOSC 12500: Self, Culture, and Society III:  
Knowledge and Power

Section 6: MWF 11:30 am – 12:20pm, Harper 148

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COURSE AIMS:

Welcome to the Spring Quarter of Self, Culture and Society! After grappling with the relationship between the society and the individual in the Winter, this quarter we'll take closer look at the way our realities are constructed. Specifically, we will explore the histories and the implications of institutions and processes that we might often take as 'normal': such as sciences and education, nations and citizenship. At the center of our inquiry will be the relationship between knowledge and power, which we will explore in-depth with Foucault and ultimately build on through a variety of 'case studies.'

My goal this quarter is to familiarize you with a series of analytical concepts and tools that you can draw on when thinking about the world that surrounds you. You will leave the class with a more intricate understanding of different kinds of power that operate through and shape our world; you will be able to identify paradigms and ideologies, as well as processes of recursion, erasure, looping effects and concept creep, performativity, cultural trauma and more.

I curated the readings so as to facilitate your engagement with the topics that you (might) care about: education, migration, news and contemporary politics etc. We will not be able to work through these in depth, and some we may not touch on at all, which is why I encourage you to think about, and maybe even work on, your final papers throughout the quarter. This will allow you to not only put what you've learned into practice, but will greatly facilitate your participation in the class. To assist you on this journey, I am curating a list of articles that more closely engage with some topics, and these will be available to you as optional readings that you can draw on for our papers.

## READING SCHEDULE:

1 Apr 1 Opening remarks + Paper Writing

### Introducing Knowledge and Power

Apr 3 Foucault, Body of the condemned, pp. 3-32 (29)

Apr 5 Foucault, Generalized punishment, pp. 73-104 (30)

2 Apr 8 Foucault, The gentle way in punishment, pp. 104-135 (31)

Apr 10 Foucault, Docile bodies, pp. 135-170 (35)

Apr 12 Foucault, The means of correct training, pp. 170-195 (25)

3 Apr 15 Foucault, Panopticism, pp. 195-231 (35)

Apr 17 Foucault, Prison, pp. 231-235, 248-256, 264-286, 298-308 (46)

Apr 19 A note on neoliberalism: Saunders pp. 45-53 and Ong pp. 10-18 (19)

4 Apr 22 Hacking, The taming of chance (Selections) (41)

### Natural Sciences and the Paradigm

Apr 24 Kuhn, pp. 1-34 (34)

Apr 26 Kuhn, pp. 35-65 (31)

5 Apr 29 Kuhn, pp. 66-92 (27)

May 1 Kuhn, pp. 92-134 (42)

May 3 Kuhn, pp. 134-172 (38)

### Kinds of people

6 May 6 Hacking, Looping effects of Human Kinds  
Haslam, Concept Creep (47)

May 8 Butler, Performative Acts and Gender Constitution (13)

May 10 Metzl. Excerpt from 'Protest Psychosis' (Intro/pp. 91-128) (38)

### Ideologies in knowledge (re)production

7 May 13 Gal& Irvine, The Boundaries of Languages and Disciplines (28)

May 15 Labov, Academic Ignorance and Black Intelligence  
Steele, Stereotype Threat (25)

May 17 Bourdieu, Cultural Reproduction and Social Reproduction  
Bourdieu, Foundations of a Theory of Symbolic Violence, pp. 3-11 (23)

### Nations and citizenship

8 May 20 Anderson, Imagined Communities. Chapter 1,2,3 and 10 (68)

	May 22	Shachar, <i>The Birthright Lottery: Citizenship and Global Inequality</i> p.1-7 (from Introduction), pp. 21-43 (Chapter 1)	(27)
	May 24	Shachar, pp. 134-163 (Chapter 5)	(20)
9	May 27:	Memorial Day. No Class	
	May 29	Ohnuki-Tierney, <i>Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms, and Nationalisms</i> , pp. 1-11,245-278	(43)
	<u>Changes</u>		
	May 31	Epstein, <i>The Construction of Lay Expertise: AIDS Activism and the Forging of Credibility in the Reform of Clinical Trials</i>	(23)
10	June 3	Brulle & Norgaard, <i>Climate change and social inertia</i> Bourdieu, <i>Description and Prescription: The conditions of possibility and the limits of political effectiveness</i>	(29)
	Jun 5	Haidt & Graham, <i>When morality opposes justice</i>	(17)
	Jun 7	Reading period	
11	Jun 14	<b>Papers due</b>	