

AMST 510 Law's Violence

Wednesday 10-12:30

Professor: David Correia

Office: Humanities 440

Office Hours: M, W: 3—4PM, or by appt.

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Course Description

The law, legal scholar Robert Cover famously wrote, is “staked in blood.” The violence to which Cover refers is made legitimate by law and the liberal state: mass incarceration, torture, everyday police violence and the death penalty, among many others. Whether by the lethal injection of an executioner's syringe or by the blow of a police officer's truncheon, law is never far from violence and always operates, as Cover argues, “in a field of pain and death.” This seminar is designed as an interdisciplinary approach to the study of law and its relation to violence. We are interested in the freedoms promised and brought to life by law and liberalism, and the ways that these freedoms always require or include organized violence in their first instance. Law's freedoms are always paired with forms of unfreedom. Individual liberty based on mass incarceration, security and peace accompanied by war and repression, the promise of social justice amid historic and ongoing injustice.

Books (Required and Available at the UNM Bookstore)

1. Agamben, Giorgio. *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*. Stanford Univ Press, 1998
2. Barker, Joanne. *Native acts: law, recognition, and cultural authenticity*. Duke University Press, 2011.
3. Chamayou, Gregoire. *Manhunts: A Philosophical History*. Princeton Univ Press, 2012
4. Dayan, Colin. *The Law is a White Dog: How Legal Rituals Make and Unmake Persons*. Princeton Univ Press, 2013
5. Esmeir, Samera. *Juridical Humanity: A Colonial History*. Stanford University Press, 2012
6. Ford, Lisa. *Settler Sovereignty: Jurisdiction and Indigenous People in America and Australia, 1788-1836*. Harvard University Press, 2011
7. Foucault, Michel. *Society Must be Defended*. Picador, 2003
8. Moreton-Robinson, Aileen. *The White Possessive: Property, Power, and Indigenous Sovereignty*. Univ of Minnesota Press, 2015
9. Murakawa, Naomi. *The First Civil Right: How Liberals Built Prison America*. Oxford Univ Press, 2014
10. Neocleous, Mark. *War Power, Police Power*. Edinburgh Univ Press, 2014
11. Schmitt, Carl. *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*. Univ of Chicago Press, 2006
12. Spade, Dean. *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law*. Duke University Press, 2015

13. Taussig, Michael. *Law in a Lawless Land, Diary of a Limpieza in Columbia*. University of Chicago Press, 2005

Book Review List

1. Brown, Wendy. *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution*. MIT Press, 2015.
2. Chamayou, Gregoire. *A Theory of the Drone*. New Press, 2015.
3. Correia, David. *Properties of Violence: Law and Land Grant Struggle in Northern New Mexico*. University of Georgia Press, 2013.
4. Delaney, David. *The spatial, the legal and the pragmatics of world-making: nomospheric investigations*. Routledge, 2010.
5. Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. *Golden gulag: Prisons, surplus, crisis, and opposition in globalizing California*. Univ of California Press, 2006.
6. Keenan, Sarah. *Subversive property: law and the production of spaces of belonging*. Routledge, 2014.
7. Povinelli, Elizabeth. *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*, Duke University Press, 2002

Course Requirements

10-12-page seminar paper	30%
Book review (~2,500 words)	20%
Reading responses	20%
Class facilitation and participation	30%

Seminar Paper

The seminar paper will be a conference-length paper on a topic of your choice relevant to any of the course themes. A 250-word abstract will be due by March 9th. The final paper will be due on the Monday of finals week. Papers should be 10-12 pages (approximately 3000—4000 words), not including bibliography.

Book Review

Each student will prepare a book review (1000—2000 words) for one of the six books listed on the book review list. Your review should follow the guidelines for a scholarly journal of your choice. Book reviews will be due on April 6th.

Reading Responses

The reading response is a short critical review and reaction for each reading posted each Tuesday (anytime before midnight) on UNM Learn. When you write you should: 1) identify the main arguments and interventions of the book, 2) elaborate on what you find most interesting/provocative in the work, 3) provide a brief, critical analysis of the piece, and 4) suggest questions for further discussion. There is no length requirement for this assignment.

Seminar Facilitation

Each student will serve as an individual or group facilitator for class at least twice during the semester. Expectations regarding facilitation will be discussed in more detail on the first day of class.

Course Policies

Accommodations

The Accessibility Resource Center (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students with disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact ARC right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

Academic Integrity

The University of New Mexico believes that academic honesty is a foundational principle for personal and academic development. All University policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying, plagiarism (claiming credit for the words or works of another from any type of source such as print, Internet or electronic database, or failing to cite the source), fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. The University's full statement on academic honesty and the consequences for failure to comply is available in the college catalog and in the Pathfinder.

Class Schedule

1/20 Introduction

1/27 Carl Schmitt

2/3 Michel Foucault

2/10 Giorgio Agamben

2/17 Lisa Ford

2/24 Samera Esmeir

3/2 Joanne Barker

3/9 Colin Dayan

Seminar paper abstract due

3/16 **Spring Break**

3/23 Mark Neocleous

3/30 **No Class**

4/6 Naomi Murakawa
Book review due

4/13 Aileen Moreton-Robinson

4/20 Gregoire Chamayou

4/27 Dean Spade

5/4 Michael Taussig

5/11 Seminar paper due