

SOSC 11600: Power, Identity, Resistance – III  
Spring 2023

Section 18  
Social Sciences Research Building 106  
MW 1:30–2:50 p.m.

Ryan Allen  
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M 11:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. and by appointment

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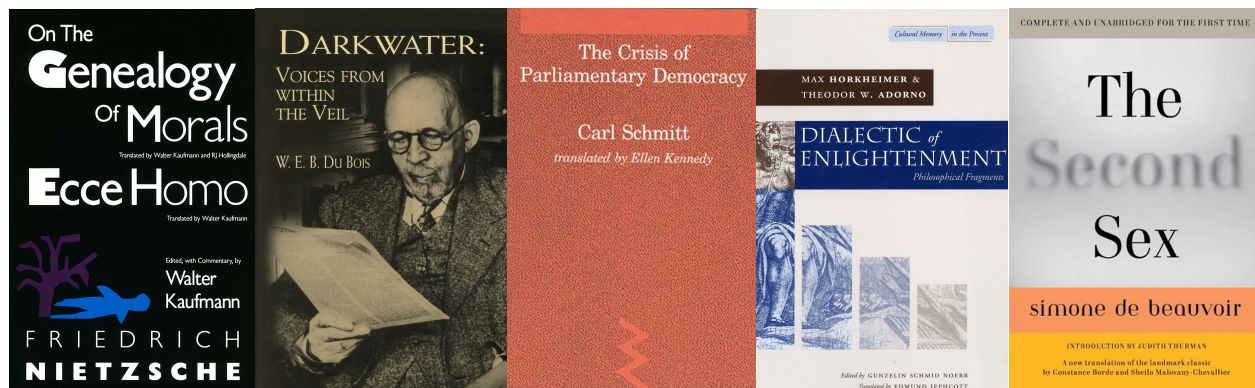
### Description

This seminar is the third quarter of a three-quarter sequence in the social sciences. This quarter of Power, Identity, Resistance grapples with colonialism, political violence, environmental degradation, racial and gender inequality, and other acute crises of modern bourgeois society. We will examine five critical moments in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when major intellectuals turned their attention to urgent social and political problems. We will read Friedrich Nietzsche, W. E. B. Du Bois, Carl Schmitt, Theodor Adorno, Max Horkheimer, and Simone de Beauvoir. This seminar will continue to develop your ability to think critically and communicate clearly.

### Readings

Five books are required for the course. They are available for purchase at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore on the corner of 58th and Woodlawn.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals and Ecce Homo* (Vintage, 1989)  
W. E. B. Du Bois, *Darkwater: Voices from within the Veil* (Dover, 1999)  
Carl Schmitt, *The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy* (MIT, 1988)  
Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (Stanford, 2002)  
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (Vintage, 2011)



## **Requirements**

Participation: 20% of course grade

Informed participation is required in this discussion-intensive seminar. Students are expected to complete all reading assignments before class, attend all class meetings, and actively participate in class discussions. You need to bring a copy of the book and any notes you have made to class. Your overall grade will be reduced for more than two unexcused absences. As a courtesy to your fellow students and to keep yourself focused on class discussions, please turn off electronic equipment (phones, laptops, and so on) and keep them out of sight during class meetings.

Reflections: 40% of course grade

You will write four short reflections this quarter. These reflections are designed to evaluate the quality of your engagement with course readings and discussions. They are not meant to be comprehensive summaries but focused meditations on topics you find particularly germane to your final essay. You must begin each reflection with your essay's organizing question or problem. Each reflection should be approximately 500 words, double spaced, Times New Roman 12-point type with 1-inch margins on all sides. Avoid title pages, footnotes and bibliographies, but have a proper title and parenthetically cite page numbers after quoted passages. You must attend class in order to hand in a reflection.

Final Essay: 40% of course grade

You will write an essay on a topic or problem of your choosing. Unlike the autumn and winter quarters, this quarter you will draw on the most pertinent books and passages from the sequence to write your final essay. You must discuss and clear your topic with me no later than Wednesday, March 29. During this discussion, I may ask you to incorporate other texts into your essay in order to make your project more ambitious, coherent, or both. A draft is due on Monday, April 24. The final essay is due on Wednesday, May 24. Detailed instructions will be distributed during the quarter.

## **Academic Integrity**

As with all your courses at the University of Chicago, you are required to adhere to the University's policy on academic integrity. This policy is described in detail at: <https://college.uchicago.edu/student-services/academic-integrity-student-conduct>

## Schedule

This schedule may change. Students will be notified of changes in class. Assignments are marked with an asterisk.

Part One	Friedrich Nietzsche
M March 20	<b>Introduction</b> Syllabus
W March 22	<b>Behold Nietzsche</b> Nietzsche, <i>Ecce Homo</i> , pp. 217–220, 236–258, 312–313 Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals</i> , pp. 15–23
M March 27	<b>Ressentiment and the Slave Revolt in Morality</b> Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals</i> , pp. 24–56
W March 29	<b>What is the Price of Civilization? Guilt, or Cruelty Turned Inward</b> Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals</i> , pp. 57–96 * Last day for initial essay meeting
M April 3	<b>Earth: The Ascetic Planet Par Excellence</b> Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morals</i> , pp. 97–163
Part Two	W. E. B. Du Bois
W April 5	<b>Color! The Modern Mark of Meanness</b> Du Bois, <i>Darkwater</i> , pp. 1–46 * Prospectus due
M April 10	<b>Domestic Servants and Captains of Industry</b> Du Bois, <i>Darkwater</i> , pp. 47–113
W April 12	<b>“This Veil, between Then and Now, between Pale and Colored and Black and White—between You and Me”</b> Du Bois, <i>Darkwater</i> , pp. 114–162
Part Three	Carl Schmitt
M April 17	<b>Is the Phrase “Liberal Democracy” an Oxymoron?</b> Schmitt, <i>The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy</i> , pp. 1–50
W April 19	<b>The Twentieth Century: When Irrational Myths Met Rational Dictatorships</b> Schmitt, <i>The Crisis of Parliamentary Democracy</i> , pp. 51–76

Part Four Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer

M April 24           **Open Session**  
\* Draft Essay due

W April 26           **Civilized Man's Blind Domination of Nature**  
Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, pp. 1–34

M May 1               **The Culture Industry: Amusement as Social Control**  
Adorno and Horkheimer, *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, pp. 94–136

Part Five Simone de Beauvoir

W May 3               **“One is Not Born, One Becomes Woman”**  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 3–68

M May 8               **Patriarchal Arsenals, Matriarchal Myths**  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 71–156

W May 10             **So Many Stages on Life's Way: How Women Experience Their  
Social and Economic Conditions**  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 279, 283–637 (two chapters), 638–664

M May 15             **The Independent Woman (in Love)**  
Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 683–708, 721–766

W May 17             **Final Discussion**  
\* Title and Abstract due

W May 24             \* Final Essay: Your essay is due no later than 5:00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, May 24. Please e-mail your paper as an attached  
Microsoft Word document to [rlallen@uchicago.edu](mailto:rlallen@uchicago.edu)