Instructor
Greg Flynn
flynngl@mcmaster.ca

Office: KTH 543
Thursday 11:30 – 2:00

Class Meetings

Lectures - Tuesday and Friday
12:30 – 1:20
Building: ITB AB102

Tutorials - As assigned

I. Introduction

This course will explore the principles governing the use of coercive policies and actual force by public authorities and the impact on citizens in modern democratic states. It will examine the historical, theoretical and practical aspects underlying punitive, modern criminal justice and penal welfare systems as a base to an investigation of the use of and proposed use of coercive force in Canada. The preliminary focus on the actors involved and the meaning of fear in a political context and the labels and stereotypes that have been used to promote fear in recent years will set the stage for a more intensive review of the major contemporary and changing methods used by the state to alleviate or reinforce fear in the population and the effects of those mechanisms on citizen behaviour.

II. Objectives

The course is intended to give students a broader understanding of the use and impact of both subtle and overt means of coercion and force by democratic states as a means of controlling citizens.

By the end of the course, it is anticipated that students will be able to identify various state actors that employ coercion and force in democratic states, and Canada in particular. Students will be able to describe and explain the methods of coercion available to the state and the impact of those differing mechanisms on citizens. Students will also be able to analyze contemporary political and public policy issues from an introductory level critical perspective concerning the use of force and attempts to control differing groups of citizens in democratic states.

Given the complexity of some of the issues and the expectations of students, it is anticipated that an introductory course in political science with some knowledge of the structure of the government of Canada would be of assistance.
III. Required Texts

Students will find the following texts to be of assistance in preparing for and understanding class lectures and discussions.


Students will also be assigned articles from academic journals or other sources concerning specific topics for discussion. These readings will be available electronically through the McMaster libraries and/or posted on Avenue to Learn. In order to fully comprehend and be prepared for class discussions, students should complete assigned readings prior to class.

IV. Class Schedule

Week 1 January 04, 2017
*Pick Up Course Outline*

No Readings

Week 2 January 10, 2017
*Introduction and Overview of the Criminal Justice System*

Ruddell, Chapters 1 and 2.

I. ACTORS

Week 3 January 17, 2017
*The State, Police and Policing*

*Tutorials Start*

Ruddell, Chapters 3 and 5.

Week 4 January 24, 2017
*Citizens, Victims, Criminals and Others*

Ruddell, Chapter 4.

II. METHODS OF CONTROL

Week 5  January 31, 2017
Torture and Surveillance

First Optional Reflection Paper Due February 03, 2017.

Ruddell, Chapter 6.


Week 6  February 07, 2017
Criminal Justice System

Ruddell, Chapters 7 and 8.

Week 7  February 14, 2017
Penitentiaries

Ruddell, Chapter 9.


Week 8  February 21, 2017
Reading Week – No Classes

Week 9  February 28, 2017
Post-Incarceration

Ruddell, Chapter 10.

Mele and Miller, Chapters 1 and 11.

III. EFFECTS OF CONTROL

Week 10  March 07, 2017
The Prison Industrial Complex

Second Optional Reflection Paper Due March 10, 2017.


**Week 11 March 14, 2017**
*Privatization of Force*

Mele and Miller, Chapters 8 and 9.

**Week 12 March 21, 2017**
*Race and Ethnicity*

Mele and Miller, Chapters 2, 3 and 10.

**Week 13 March 28, 2017**
*Gender and Poverty*


Mele and Miller, Chapters 5 and 7.

**Week 14 April 04, 2017**
*Conclusions*

*No Tutorials this week.*

Mele and Miller, Chapter 14.

**V. Teaching Methods**

The class is scheduled for two one-hour lecture sessions and one one-hour tutorial per week.

The lecture sessions will be conducted in an interactive format with students having the opportunity to and being encouraged to ask questions concerning the information being provided to them. The third hour of course time will be used as a tutorial session for more informal, guided and intensive discussions concerning course materials. The tutorial sessions will be conducted by teaching assistants from the department of political science and are designed to enable students to more fully explore the topics under consideration through a guided discussion with their peers. This provides students with the opportunity to ask questions, formulate their
thoughts and discuss their opinions in a less formal environment. Any student wishing to change their allocated tutorial slot may do so through MOSAIC provided the tutorial has space.

In addition to formal class time, students are also invited and encouraged to meet with the instructor during regular office hours or by special appointment to discuss course content.

The course also involves the potential for group based learning and completion of assignments. In the event that students wish to complete group assignments, the responsibility for finding appropriate group partners rests solely with the students. Students may only team up with other students in their assigned tutorials. Participation in and the submission of group work means that all members of the group will share the same grade and each student including their name on group work acknowledges and accepts this grading method.

**VI. Evaluation**

The following evaluations will determine the grade received by students.

1. Participation 20%
2. Optional Reflection Papers 0/10/20%
3. Major Research Paper 40%
4. Final Exam 20/30/40%

Written assignments should be provided to the instructor, either at the beginning of class or during office hours prior to class. As a last resort, assignments can be submitted to the box outside of the political science office. Assignments will not be accepted by the Department of Political Science Office staff or that are slipped under the instructor’s or any other door. Papers received by e-mail or fax will not be accepted without the prior express permission of the instructor on each assignment.

In the event that students are unable to attend class or complete required assignments and have submitted the appropriate documentation to their faculty or received the approval of the instructor for the incomplete work, the instructor reserves the right re-allocate the missed grades to other assignments.

**Late Policy**

Students should make all reasonable attempts to submit papers on the due date. In the event that a legitimate extension is required, students should speak to the instructor in advance of the due date to make the appropriate arrangements for such an extension. Requests for an extension submitted by e-mail will not be considered – you must speak to the instructor in person.

Examinations and/or assignments related to other courses do not constitute or qualify as exceptional circumstances or legitimate excuses.
Late papers may be penalized at the rate of three percentage points per working day for each day of delay, up to a maximum of one week. After one week, the instructor may refuse to accept any late assignments in the absence of proper medical certification justifying an inability to fulfill academic requirements on a prolonged basis. Papers accepted after one week of lateness, in addition to the daily deduction, will be subject to a further deduction of one full letter grade (ie. A to B, B to C) per each week of lateness.

The instructor reserves the right to not provide any comments or feedback on papers submitted after the original deadline, whether an extension is granted or not and whether any other late penalties are applied.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

**Academic Dishonesty**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
VII. Assignments

1. Tutorial Participation – Weekly beginning January 19, 2017 20%

Participation in tutorial groups will account for twenty percent of the final grade. Students should note that participation is not synonymous with attendance and that only half of their tutorial participation grade will be based on attendance alone. At the outset of each tutorial, students will be asked to sign an attendance sheet indicating their presence for that week and it is the sole responsibility of students to ensure that they have signed the sheet.

Please note that signing an attendance sheet on behalf of someone who is not present in a tutorial session constitutes an offence under the academic integrity policy of McMaster University.

The other half of the student’s participation grade is dependent upon their ability and willingness to regularly and intelligently contribute to the group discussions that take place in and through the tutorial group. In this regard, students may contribute in one of two ways. First, they may make comments or ask or respond to questions asked during the course of the weekly discussions. Second, students may post comments on a discussion thread on Avenue to Learn for their individual and specific tutorial group after the tutorial session. Only those students who have attended tutorial and signed the attendance sheet will have this second form of discussion contribute to their participation grade.

Tutorial groups will focus on clarifying and applying the material discussed in lecture through a consideration of weekly questions, but could also include a discussion of contemporary political debates, albeit in light of the historical and theoretical perspectives associated with the issue.

2. Optional Reflection Papers – February 03, 2017 and March 10, 2017 0/10/20%

Students have the option of writing up to two take home exam/reflection papers based on the course content covered in the specific course section (ie. Actors and Methods of Control). The question will ask students to reflect on the lecture content and readings for that specific section as a means of reinforcing the course content and developing the major themes of the course.

The questions will be distributed in lecture on Tuesday and are due in lecture three days later on Friday. Each paper is worth ten percent and each one that is submitted will result in a corresponding decrease in the value of the final exam. In other words, if a students does not complete an optional paper, the final exam will be worth forty percent; if a student completes one optional paper, the final exam will be worth thirty percent; and if a student completes both papers, the final exam will be worth twenty percent.

Due to the fact that these papers are optional, no MSAF requests will be accommodated and late papers will not be accepted.
Students have two options for completing the major research paper. 

First, students may write an individual paper of between twelve and fifteen pages, exclusive of bibliography and footnotes or endnotes. 

Alternatively, students working in groups of up to three persons from within their tutorial may write a twenty to twenty-five page paper, exclusive of bibliography and footnotes or endnotes. Unless agreed to in advance by all students in the group and the instructor, students will all receive the same grade for the assignment. 

For either option, the major research paper should include an introduction, a brief review of the academic literature demonstrating why the topic requires additional research, a summary of the research method undertaken, the findings of the research and a discussion of those findings. As part of the research method/findings, the research paper should undertake PRIMARY research into the specific topic. 

Further instructions, a list of topics and additional resources will be provided to students by the middle of January. 

3. Final Exam – April Exam Period 20/30/40% 

The final exam will be based on all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings throughout the course. The exam will provide an overall summary of the course for students and an opportunity to apply the material they have learned over the course of the term. 

Statement on Electronic Resources 

In this course we will be using Email and/or AvenueToLearn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.
Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

COURSE MODIFICATION STATEMENT:

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.