

Sociology 145 (Social Change):

REPRESSION & RESISTANCE

Spring 2017
University of California, Berkeley

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T/Th 3:30-5pm (100 Lewis)

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Thurs 2:00 - 3:00

Sociologists study the dynamics of social change through a wide variety of approaches. This course focuses on the **dynamic relationship between repression and resistance**. While these are two major themes of sociological interest, they are often studied in isolation – repression being a primary focus of political sociologists, while the study of resistance is generally undertaken by scholars of social movements. This course seeks to bring together these two directions of sociological inquiry by exploring the dynamic relationship between repression and resistance. How do strategies of repression emerge in direct response to efforts of resistance? And how do those forms of repression then incite and shape new strategies of resistance? How can we understand this dynamic of repression and resistance through which each adapt and evolve in relation to the other? To explore this dynamic, we will undertake an in-depth examination of two empirical cases of massive state repression – McCarthyism and Mass Incarceration – seeking to understand why they emerge, how they operate, the impacts they have, and the forms of resistance they engender.

In **Part I**, we explore the historical case of “**McCarthyism**” as a mechanism of repressing political dissent. How did this state project emerge as a repressive response to a wide range of resistances during the “Cold War?” What forms of resistance came to be targeted as “communism?” And how did decades of this repression eventually incite new strategies of resistance? We focus particularly on the resistance that surfaced here at UC Berkeley under the banner of the “**Free Speech Movement**,” exploring how it emerged out of the Civil Rights Movement and later served as the launching ground for a student Anti-War Movement that would fundamentally challenge the US’ “Cold War.” Finally, we consider how the threat posed by these social movements incited a massive repressive backlash which continues to have contemporary political reverberations.

In **Part II**, we examine the contemporary case of “**Mass Incarceration**,” exploring how the development of a racist police state and a “New Jim Crow” emerged, in part, as a response to the threat posed by the Black Liberation movement of the 1960s/1970s. We approach Mass Incarceration as the most recent incarnation of a “racial caste system,” examining its relationship to the development of contemporary capitalism. Finally, we conclude by exploring how this repressive project has now fueled the emergence of a nationwide resistance movement demanding that “**Black Lives Matter**.”

PART I: *From McCarthyism to “Free Speech”*

1/17 COURSE INTRODUCTION

1/19 The “Great Fear”: The Truman Doctrine, Pax Americana & the Cold War

Schultz, Bud and Ruth Schultz. “Silencing Opponents of War.” In *The Price of Dissent: Testimonies to Political Repression in America*, edited by Bud Schultz and Ruth Schultz. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. (Pp.267-277)

Caute, David. *The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge Under Truman and Eisenhower*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979. Introduction (pp.17-22); Ch.1 (pp.25-31); and Ch.2 (pp.47-53)

1/24 The Machinery of Repression: Seditious Laws, HUAC & the FBI

Caute, David. *The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge Under Truman and Eisenhower*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979. Ch.4 (pp.70-81); Ch.5 (pp.85-96; 101-108); and Ch.6 (pp.111-122)

1/26 The Criminalization of Dissent

Caute, David. *The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge Under Truman and Eisenhower*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1979. Ch.8 (pp.161-178); Ch.11 (pp.224-230); Ch.22 (pp.403-406; 422-430); and Conclusion (pp.539 -542)

1/31 Repression at UC Berkeley: The Responsibilities Program & the Loyalty Oath

Rosenfeld, Seth. *Subversives: The FBI’s War on Student Radicals, and Reagan’s Rise to Power*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Prologue and Ch.1-3 (pp.3-43).

Regents of the University of California, “Resolution Adopted by the Regents of the University of California, April 21, 1950.”

State of California, “Oath of Allegiance and Declaration of Permission to Work for Persons Employed by the State of California.”

2/2 The Emergence of Resistance: Disrupting HUAC in San Francisco

Rosenfeld, Seth. *Subversives: The FBI’s War on Student Radicals, and Reagan’s Rise to Power*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Ch.6 & 7 (pp.77-99).

In-class viewing of “*Operation Abolition*” (1960) (<https://youtu.be/MeiW63M3bcI>)

2/7 The Origins of the Free Speech Movement: The Civil Rights Movement

Freeman, Jo. "From Freedom Now! To Free Speech: The FSM's Roots in the Bay Area Civil Rights Movement." In *The Free Speech Movement: Reflections on Berkeley in the 1960s*, edited by Robert Cohen and Reginald E. Zelnick. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002. (Pp.73-82)

Savio, Mario. "Resisting Reaganism and War in Central America." In *Freedom's Orator: Mario Savio and the Radical Legacy of the 1960s*, edited by Robert Cohen. Oxford: University Press, 2009. (Pp.346-349)

Goldberg, Jackie. "The Vietnam Era: The War Against the Peacemakers." In *The Price of Dissent: Testimonies to Political Repression in America*, edited by Bud Schultz and Ruth Schultz. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001. (Pp.289-304)

2/9 Political Process & Tactical Innovation

McAdam, Doug. "Tactical Innovation and the Pace of Insurgency." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 48, No.6 (Dec 1983): 735-754.

2/14 The Free Speech Movement

Rosenfeld, Seth. *Subversives: The FBI's War on Student Radicals, and Reagan's Rise to Power*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Excerpt from Ch.13 and Ch.14 (pp.204-231)

Savio, Mario. "Bodies Upon the Gears." In *Freedom's Orator: Mario Savio and the Radical Legacy of the 1960s*, edited by Robert Cohen. Oxford: University Press, 2009. (Pp.326-328)

In-Class Viewing of Documentary: *Berkeley in the Sixties* (1990) [Available at the Media Resources Center]

2/16 From the FSM to the Anti-War Movement

Rosenfeld, Seth. *Subversives: The FBI's War on Student Radicals, and Reagan's Rise to Power*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Ch.17 (pp.260-288)

In-Class Viewing of Documentary: *Berkeley in the Sixties* (1990) [Available at the Media Resources Center]

2/21 Backlash: The Rise of Reagan

Rosenfeld, Seth. *Subversives: The FBI's War on Student Radicals, and Reagan's Rise to Power*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012. Excerpts from Ch.20 & 26 (pp.326-328; 341-346; 447-487)

2/23 Social Movements & Political Reverberations

McAdam, Doug. "Be Careful What You Wish For: The Ironic Connection Between the Civil Rights Struggle and Today's Divided America," *Sociological Forum*, Vol.30, No.1 (June 2013): 485-508.

**Take-home Examination on Part I distributed in class – DUE 2/27 by 10pm*

PART II: *From Mass Incarceration to "Black Lives Matter"*

2/28 INTRODUCTION: *Mass Incarceration*

In-Class Viewing of Documentary: *13* (2016)

**Submit hard copies of Exam in class*

3/2 Mass Incarceration as a Racial Caste System

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Introduction (pp.1-19)

In-Class Viewing of Documentary: *13* (2016)

3/7 The Historical Evolution of Racial Caste Systems

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Ch.1 "The Rebirth of Caste" (pp. 20-58)

3/9 The "New Jim Crow": Mass Incarceration

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Ch.2 "The Lockdown" (pp.59-96)

3/14 Beyond the Prison Walls

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Excerpts of Ch.4 “The Cruel Hand” (pp.140-169)

3/16 Historical Parallels & Divergences

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Excerpts of Ch.5 “The New Jim Crow” (pp. 178-208; 217-220)

3/21 The Economies of “Peculiar Institutions”

Waquant, Loic. "From slavery to mass incarceration: Rethinking the ‘race question’ in the US." *New Left Review* 13 (2002): 42-60.

3/23 “Colorblindness” and the Limits of Civil Rights Advocacy

Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press, 2012. Chapter 6 “The Fire this Time” (pp.221-261)

3/28 NO CLASS

3/30 NO CLASS

4/4 Dialectic of Resistance & Repression

Murch, Donna. “Ferguson’s Inheritance.” *Jacobin*. (2015)
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2015/08/ferguson-police-black-lives-matter/>

4/6 American Exceptionalism and the Culture of Racism

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016. Ch.1 (pp.21-50)

4/11 The Threat of Black Liberation & the Political Construction of “Colorblindness”

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016. Ch.2 (pp.51-73)

4/13 Race, Class & Policing

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016. Ch.4 (pp.107-133)

4/18 Obama Disillusionment & the Rise of Resistance

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016. Ch.5 (pp.135-152)

4/20 “Black Lives Matter”

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016. Ch.6 (pp.153-190)

Garza, Alicia. “A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement.” *Feminist Wire*, October 7, 2014. <http://www.thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2/>.

4/25 The Political Economy of Racism: Black Liberation & Socialism

Taylor, Keeanga-Yamahtta. *From #BlackLivesMatter to Black Liberation*. Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2016. Ch.7 (pp.191-219)

4/27 CONCLUSION

**Take-home Examination on Part II distributed in class – DUE 5/8 by 4pm*

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

- 15% Attendance
- 35% Reading Responses
- 25% Take-home Exam on Part 1 (Due 2/27)
- 25% Take-home Exam on Part 2 (Due 5/8)

REQUIRED READINGS:

All readings listed on the syllabus are included in the **course reader, available at *Replica Digital Ink*** (510 549-9991) at 2138 Oxford Street (by the Center Street entrance to campus near the Downtown Berkeley BART station, around the corner from Starbucks). Required readings have purposely been limited to ensure that students can be reasonably expected to read *all* assigned texts *carefully* and *thoroughly*.

ATTENDANCE:

Class attendance is mandatory. Students are *allotted 2 unexcused absences* without penalty. Any additional absences will result in a grade penalty. Absences may be excused only in *extreme* circumstances, and only if discussed with me *prior* to the absence (with the exception of serious medical emergencies). It is crucial that all students arrive on time (class will start promptly at 10 minutes after the hour).

READING RESPONSES:

Students will complete 7 reading responses (each worth 5%) assigned throughout the semester. Each reading response will pose a series of question relating to the assigned readings. Students are required to write brief responses (1-2 pages double spaced) that address the posed questions thoroughly and provide all relevant citation.

EXAMINATIONS:

Students are required to complete a take-home examination at the conclusion of each of the two parts of the course. These will examine students' comprehension and mastery of the assigned readings and course content.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All written work must be your own. Any words, or *ideas*, borrowed from another source (even if paraphrased) must be appropriately cited. Any form of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:

Please notify me immediately if you require any special accommodations for the course. If you are registered with the DSP program, please ensure that your authorization letter is forwarded to me at the beginning of the semester.