Politics and Literature
POT 4109
Spring 2013

Dwight Kiel
Phillips Hall 305D

SYLLABUS

This course explores political themes in classic and contemporary literature.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Chinua Achebe	*Things Fall Apart*
J.M. Coetzee	*Waiting for the Barbarians*
Philip Dick	*Blade Runner*
Ursula K. LeGuin	*The Dispossessed*
Sophocles	*Antigone*
Yevgeny Zamyatin	*We*

REQUIREMENTS:

4 short papers	20% of course grade
Midterm Essay	35% of course grade
Final Essay	45% of course grade

SCHEDULE:

DATE	THEME	READING
1/7	Introduction	
1/14	Justice	*Antigone*
1/21	No Class (MLK Holiday)	
1/28	Empire	"Shooting an Elephant"
2/4	Empire	*Things Fall Apart*
2/11	Empire	*Waiting for the Barbarians*
2/18	Empire	"A Modest Proposal"
2/25	Essay #1 Due	

3/4	No Class (Spring Break)	
3/11	Good Politics?	*Gulliver's Travels* Travels 1&2
3/18	Good Politics?	*Gulliver's Travels* Travels 3&4
3/25	Dystopia	*We*
4/1	Dystopia	*Blade Runner*
4/8	Utopia?	*The Dispossessed* Ch. 1-6
4/15	Utopia?	*The Dispossessed* Ch. 7-13
4/22	TBA	
4/29	Review	

The Four Questions for the Short Papers:

1. Discuss one of the political themes in this piece.
2. Provide a brief biography of the author (including their political views).
3. What important historical event occurred during the author's lifetime? Did it influence the author's thinking?
4. What did contemporaries think of this piece?

Papers must be typed, double-spaced and in 12 point font. They must not exceed 300 words. You must do four of these papers and only one on each piece.