### Tentative Schedule (last UPDATE: November 12, 2012)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING</th>
<th>MULTIMEDIA</th>
<th>THESIS PAPER</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Aug 30</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>no reading</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sep 4</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>no reading</td>
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<td>Left Strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td>Democracy and Politics</td>
<td>Ranciere, The Hatred of Democracy, chapter 1-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sep 11</td>
<td>True Democracy</td>
<td>Ranciere, The Hatred of Democracy, chapter 3-4</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Sep 13</td>
<td>Democracy as Insurgency in the Early Marx</td>
<td>Abensour, Democracy against the State, prefaces+forward</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Sep 18</td>
<td>Democracy against the State</td>
<td>Abensour, Democracy against the State, introduction+chapter 1</td>
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<td>Adam 1</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Sep 20</td>
<td>True Democracy</td>
<td>Abensour, Democracy against the State, chapter 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zizek, What does it mean to be a revolutionary today?</td>
<td>Aturo</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Sep 25</td>
<td>Democracy and Modernity</td>
<td>Abensour, Democracy against the State, chapter 6+conclusion</td>
<td></td>
<td>Balibar, Communism as Commitment</td>
<td>Adam 2</td>
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**BADIOU ON THE POLITICAL**

Badiou, Prologue to
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>Politics vs. The Political Metapolitics: Badiou, Against Political Philosophy</td>
<td>Badiou, Political Perversion and Democracy</td>
<td>5 Reaction paper assignment passed out in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>Politics vs. The Political Badiou, Politics Unbound; Badiou, A Speculative Disquisition on the Concept of Democracy</td>
<td>Badiou, Democracy, Politics, and Philosophy</td>
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<td>11 Oct</td>
<td>Democracy</td>
<td>Badiou, Politics as Truth Procedure; Badiou, Truth and Justice</td>
<td>7 Reaction paper due</td>
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<td>ALTHUSSER: STATE AND IDEOLOGY</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Oct</td>
<td>Althusser on Lenin Althusser, On Ideology, pp. 1-22</td>
<td>Video: Chomsky on libertarian socialism</td>
<td>Jeff 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Oct</td>
<td>no class</td>
<td>no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Oct</td>
<td>Material Conception of Althusser Althusser, On Ideology, pp. 22-60</td>
<td>Democratic hope: Prime Minister Julia Gillard's Speech Over Opposition's Sexism, Misogyny</td>
<td>Fujimori</td>
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<td>15 Oct</td>
<td>Material Conception of Althusser Althusser, On Ideology, pp. 22-60, Badiou, Althusser: Subjectivity without Subject</td>
<td>Emma</td>
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<td>POULANTZAS: STATE AND LAW</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Oct</td>
<td>State and Capitalism; Critique of Althusser Poulantzas, Power, State, Socialism, introduction</td>
<td>John</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>State and Institutions Poulantzas, Power, State, Socialism, part one, 1-2</td>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td>18 Oct</td>
<td>Law and Nation Poulantzas, Power, State, Socialism, part one, 3-4</td>
<td>13 Reaction paper assignment passed out in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 Nov</td>
<td>no class</td>
<td>no class</td>
<td>14 Reaction paper due</td>
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<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>State and Classes Poulantzas, Power, State, Socialism, part two</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Nov</td>
<td>State and Power Poulantzas, Power, State, Socialism, part three, 1-2</td>
<td>Hiokoei</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Nov</td>
<td>State and Economy Poulantzas, Power, State, Socialism, part three, 3-4</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td></td>
<td>INSURGENCIES: NEGRI AND THE STATE</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 Nov</td>
<td>Introduction, Negri Film, Documentary on Negri 1</td>
<td>Film, A revolte that never ends</td>
<td>20 Final essay assignment passed out in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Nov</td>
<td>Constituent Power Negri, Insurgencies, chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Nov</td>
<td>no class</td>
<td>no class</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Nov</td>
<td>American Revolution Negri, Insurgencies, chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 Nov</td>
<td>no class, class on Nov 30 no class, class on Nov 30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Dec</td>
<td>Multitude Negri, Insurgencies, chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Dec</td>
<td>Wrap Up</td>
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Class Meetings:
Days: TTH
Time: 3:00 PM - 4:50 PM
Place: A302 Wells Hall

Office:
Phone: 517.355.4490 [dept.]
Place: 501 S. Kedzie Hall (part of room 503, front office)
Hours: see homepage

Other Contact:
E-mail: lotz@msu.edu
Home Phone: please ask
Webpage: http://christianlotz.wordpress.com

Box
You will find my box in the front office of the philosophy department (and in front of my office)

Teaching Assistant: no teaching assistants

Course Description
In this class we will discuss important topics that emerged in 20th Century European political thought. Not only recent uprisings in the Arab world and the Occupy Wallstreet movement reminded us of the following questions: how should we think about democracy as a form of political organization beyond the state? Can democracy be understood as a movement against the state? What is the role of power, police, and law enforcement in connection with the state? In addition, we will ask whether domination in Capitalism is a form of personal domination, or whether domination is an “abstract” form of social relatedness determined by capital. We will discuss Marx’s early ideas about democracy as insurgency and see how Lenin took up (and distorted) some of those ideas, before we will turn to Althusser, Poulantzas’, Foucault’s and Negri’s ideas about the connection between state, power, class, and ideology. Finally, we will briefly look at shorter essays by Ranciere and Badiou.

Note
This is a 421 course in philosophy and, as such, contains difficult material and requires mature students. If you are not willing to study dense written material, listen to unusual lectures, and discuss ideas in an organized fashion, then you should not take this class.

Course Goals
This lecture class should students introduce to

- the idea of democracy as insurgency
- the idea of democracy as something that is in tension with the state
- the concepts of ideology and hegemony
- the idea of the political in recent French philosophy
- Marxist interpretations of the aforementioned issues

Structure
Part I: Do we live in a democracy?
Part II: Is there a tension between democracy and state?
Part III: What is the being of the political?
Part IV: What is the relation between ideology and state?
Part V: What is the relation between power and state
Part VI: What is constituent power?
Note

Students should be aware of the fact that this course is based on extremely difficult texts. Accordingly, this class requires self-responsible learners and an intense confrontation with the primary text. Accordingly, if you are not excited about the prospect of a daily confrontation with abstract and historical reflections, then you should not take this class. This class is not based on a set of fixed knowledge and, as such, is not based on a behavioral idea of education; rather, we will try to learn together and critically examine the material. The instructor of this class does not have anything to teach, but much to learn.

Note, class on Nov 29

Prof. Antonio Calcagno (King's College, London/Ontario) will speak about Italian political philosophy on Nov 30 in our department and agreed to meet with this class. Accordingly, we will meet on Friday Nov 30. Please keep this date open.

Required Texts (Bookstore)

- Abensour, Democracy against the State, Polity
- Negri, Insurgencies, Minnesota UP
- Poulantzas, State, Power, Socialism, Verso
- Althusser, On Ideology, Verso
- Ranciere, The Hatred of Democracy, Verso
- Badiou, Metapolitics, Verso

Reading assignments and preparation

The reading assignment per session is limited; however, this means that I expect you to come to class having prepared the texts carefully and thoroughly and that you are able to talk meaningfully about the text, raise questions of your own and provide answers when called upon. I will take the liberty to call on students randomly. An approximate preparation time for each class is a minimum of three hours. The reading for the next session, if not clear from the course schedule (below), will be announced at the end of the previous class. “Preparing for class” implies underlining and making excerpts from the text assigned; looking up unfamiliar vocabulary and writing them into a note book (I encourage you to keep a vocabulary booklet for all of your classes). Just reading the text won't be sufficient. You have to study the material. Some vocabulary might not be sufficiently explained in a regular dictionary (this goes especially for philosophical terms), so it is necessary to consult additional sources (e.g., the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy — online (see remark below) — is an excellent source of information, and the MSU Library Website is a great resource for nearly all questions in this regard).

Organization

The course will be organized such that, ideally, each class period will include [i] "interactive" lecture, [ii] discussion time or [iii] response time. Students will be asked to intensively prepare a certain text or part of a text for the next class period. Certain class sections will be devoted to listening to Wagner's music and will be accompanied by brief assignments.

Course Requirements

- Daily reading and studying (around 5-10 pages)
- 2 shorter reaction papers
- 1 thesis paper (short assignment)
- 1 final paper
- participation

Note

The class and my lectures are solely based on the texts selected for class and require a thorough study and preparation of the material. I will primarily lecture on the readings, which will help you to more fully understand the texts. Therefore it is not sufficient for students to come to class without having prepared the texts. And indeed, in the exams you have to demonstrate whether you have appropriately prepared the readings selected for each lecture.

Reading Quizzes

There will be - from time to time - unannounced reading quizzes and group assignments. Students who do not attend class (and have no medical documentation) will lose all points. Reading quizzes and group assignments cannot be made up. I will waive this requirement if I have the impression that students come prepared to class.

Make-Up Assignments

Students who need to miss the exam(s) for excusable reasons must inform me ahead of time, and will be permitted to make up the exam and movie assignment. I will only accept official doctor notes (no faxes, no emails) or letters from other professors.
Attendance

To get a good grade in this class, regular attendance is required. I will not call roll. Hence, it is up to you to come to class or not. However, if you do not come to class on a regular basis and participate in the class discussion, it is impossible for you to achieve a good grade in this class; so coming to class is your responsibility and your call. If you choose to attend class, please come on time, turn off cell phones and other electronic devices that interfere with your (and others’) concentration, have the reading prepared and be ready to participate. If you are not prepared, do not bother showing up. It is a sign of disrespect to your peers and the instructor to attend class unprepared. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain class notes from a fellow student and to catch up on reading. Nevertheless, please be aware that you should not make me responsible for a failure that results out of your decision. You should be aware that chances to master this class are minimal, if you do not show up for class or if you do not prepare the readings (=studying).

Thesis Paper (brief overview of assigned reading)

Each student has to prepare once a thesis paper for class. The thesis paper should contain [a] a list of main points and claims, [b] concepts that are unclear, [c] intelligent questions about the readings. Students who prepare the thesis paper need to send their responses by 8am per email on the due date to me, bring copies for everyone to class and be prepared to briefly present their paper. The thesis paper is limited to two pages and you must use the prepared document (download below). Note: you are not allowed to cite common internet resources, such as Wikipedia. Instead, work with the following online resources (or other resources in the library): Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy - Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy - Encyclopedia of Continental Philosophy (e-book) - The Oxford Companion to Philosophy

Click here to download thesis paper

Reaction Paper

Each student has to write two 2-page (no more than 600 words) reaction papers in reaction to one of the readings. The reaction paper should contain a systematic thesis about a selected aspect of the material.

Reading Quizzes

There will be - from time to time - unannounced reading quizzes and group assignments. Students who do not attend class (and have no medical documentation) will lose all points. Reading quizzes and group assignments cannot be made up. I will waive this requirement if I have the impression that students come prepared to class.

Papers

In order to intensify and improve your understanding of the material, you will turn in one final research and academic style paper, in which you analyze a specific topic (6 pages, double spaced, no more than 1800 words). Assignments will be passed out in class.

Class Response Sheets

Every student is asked to submit up to 5 class response sheets during the semester.

Click here to download the class response sheet

(Word document, I will only accept answers that are given on this form) The response sheets have to be submitted at the end of a class session. I do not accept late turn ins.

Course Evaluation

You will be evaluated on the basis of:

1 final paper 30 points
2 reaction papers 20 points
unannounced reading quizzes and other assignments 15 points
1 thesis paper (handout, make copies) 10 points
participation 10 points
5 response sheets 15 points

100 points
Grading:

<table>
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<th>Range</th>
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<td>4.0 (=A)</td>
<td>100 - 93</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>92 - 87</td>
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<td>3 (=B)</td>
<td>86 - 82</td>
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<td>2.5</td>
<td>81 - 77</td>
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<td>2 (=C)</td>
<td>76 - 72</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>71 - 65</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.0 (=D)</td>
<td>64 - 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
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**GENERAL SYLLABUS (might not be applicable to each class)**

**Laptop/Cell Phone Policy**

You are not permitted to use laptops and cell phones in class. Please do not text under the table. Cell phones should be removed from tables. Failure to follow this policy will lead to unannounced assignments in class or loss of points (at the discretion of the instructor).

**Class Attendance**

As mentioned above, I do not employ in my classes a class attendance policy. Having said this, you should be aware that class attendance is very important. When engaging in a philosophical and humanistic dialogue it is necessary to be an active and present participant in the ongoing discussion. If you miss class please do not email me asking if you missed anything important. Every class is important. You should get a study buddy for the class; a student in class who will inform you of what you missed. If you miss a class you can come to my office hours or make an appointment to discuss the material, providing you have read the material and you simply want to see if your understanding of the material is on target. Time in office hours will not be used to repeat the class lectures.

**Grading Criteria**

Check out this page for grading criteria, example of assignments, etc.

**Helpful information about oral presentations, paper writing and plagiarism**

Click here to find help on your presentations and your writing

**Online Research Sources**

Unfortunately, some people think that the internet as such is a reliable source of information. If you decide to use online sources for additional information or your paper then do not just use one of the common internet search engines, such as Google; rather, use reliable academic sources, such as Britannica Online, or the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy isn't very good, but still acceptable. Check out MSU's library resources! And, as with other sources, you must cite any online sources to which you refer in your essay.

**Writing Center Information**

MSU's writing center offers excellent help on all matters regarding writing and learning. Check the website at [http://writing.msu.edu](http://writing.msu.edu) for an overview and hours. For more information, please call 517.432.3610 or send an e-mail to writing@msu.edu.

**Integrity of Scholarship and Grades (Plagiarism)**

The following statement of University policy addresses principles and procedures to be used in instances of academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards, and falsification of academic or admission records, herein after referred to as academic misconduct. [See General Student Regulation 1.00, Protection of Scholarship and Grades.]: [download document](http://writing.msu.edu) (pdf)

**Academic Honesty**
Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the (insert name of unit offering course) adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu) Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU rules may receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also http://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html)

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should contact the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities to establish reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor, call 353-9642 (voice) or 355-1293 (TTY)

Drops and Adds

The last day to add this course is the end of the first week of classes. The last day to drop this course with a 100 percent refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). The last day to drop this course with no refund and no grade reported is (see Academic Calendar). You should immediately make a copy of your amended schedule to verify you have added or dropped this course.

Note on Attendance

Students who fail to attend the first four class sessions or class by the fifth day of the semester, whichever occurs first, may be dropped from the course.