Literature and Politics: Power, Writing, Resistance  
Tu-Th, 4:00-5:15, Computer Sciences Building, 1325.

This course examines a series of political, philosophical, and literary texts in order to imagine the possible relations between power, writing, and resistance. Rather than using literature as a key to politics, or imposing political themes on literary works, we will attend to how literature—taken as a coded form of linguistic and aesthetic practice—and politics—understood both as the exercise of power and strategies of resistance—might be related. Throughout our readings we will attend to three related questions: What is the power of literature? Can literary writing affect political consciousness? Does literature enable modes of resistance? The goal of this course is thus to offer students of politics insights into how literary works represent and negotiate political questions in writing, and inversely, to encourage students of literature to read and think politically. Requirements include two papers (4-5 pages) and one in-class presentation (See presentation handout for details). Paper prompts will be distributed in class and by email.

Required Texts: Available at the UW Bookstore  
1) Herman Melville, Melville’s Short Novels (Norton, ISBN 9780393976410)  
4) Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God (Harper, ISBN 0061120065)  
6) James Baldwin, Giovanni’s Room (Vintage, 0345806565)  
7) Kazuo Ishiguro, Never Let me Go (Vintage, 1400078776)  
8) Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis (Pantheon, 0375714839)  

Selected Electronic Reserves: Critical Readings for Presentations  
Gilles Deleuze, “Bartleby or the Formula”  
Michael Rogin, “Mutiny and Slave Revolt”  
Lacoue-Labarthe, “The Horror of the West”  
Chinua Achebe, “An Image of Africa”  
Walter Benjamin, “Franz Kafka, On the Tenth Anniversary of his Death”  
W.E.B. Dubois, Souls of Black Folk (excerpt)  
Barbara Johnson, “Metaphor, Metonymy and Voice in Their Eyes Were Watching God”  
Leo Strauss, “Persecution and the Art of Writing”  
Giorgio Agamben, Remnants of Auschwitz (excerpts)  
Dawkins, “What’s Wrong with Cloning?”

Learning Outcomes, Course Requirements and Guidelines:  
As a cross listed course in political science and integrated liberal studies, PS 570/ILS 253 uses theoretical and critical texts as a way of inquiring into the political systems and beliefs of individuals, collectives, and institutions. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:  
• think critically about their own societies and the larger global community.  
• demonstrate knowledge of one or more methodologies in order to interpret literary texts.  
• demonstrate knowledge of one or more theoretical approaches.  
• synthesize and apply critical concepts in order to view issues from multiple perspectives.

Requirements:  
1) Come to class. Do the readings. Bring your books, notes, comments, and questions for class discussion.  
2) Write two original, well-written and well-argued papers.  
3) Do one in class presentation based on the text and one critical source (5 minutes).
Grading Scale: 30% Presentation; 20% Attendance and Participation; 50% Papers

Assignments: Required assignments include two papers (4-5 pages), active and informed participation, and an in-class presentation.

Papers: Late papers will be penalized by a third of a letter grade per day. Extensions must be requested one week in advance, only for exceptional reasons. All your work must follow the principles of academic integrity. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade: https://www.students.wisc.edu/doso/academic-integrity/

Writing Center: http://writing.wisc.edu helps undergraduates in all disciplines become more effective writers. Workshops and individual help with writing are available onsite and online. You are strongly encouraged to work with the Writing Center before submitting your papers.

Participation: Presence in class is essential. Regular attendance and informed participation is a basic requirement of the course. Bring your texts and reading notes to class. If you must miss a session, send an email well in advance explaining why you cannot attend (sickness, religious holiday, exceptional circumstances are acceptable reasons).

Grader: William Broadway (wbroadway@wisc.edu).

Office hours: ILS Building, 228 N Charter Street, 3-4 pm Thursdays, and by appointment.

Email: Inquiries will be responded to within 24 hours, excluding weekends.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Introduction: Politics and Literature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Melville, “Bartleby, The Scrivener. A Story of Wall-Street”, 3-34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Melville, “Benito Cereno”, 34-103</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Melville, “Benito Cereno”, 34-103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Conrad, Heart of Darkness, Ch 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 22</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Conrad, Heart of Darkness, Ch 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Conrad, Heart of Darkness, Ch 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 29</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Kafka, Selected Stories, 1-60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1st Paper Due Date: October 2, 2016 (to be emailed by 5 pm).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Tu</th>
<th>Kafka, Selected Stories, 61-124</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 04</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 06</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>Kafka, Selected Stories, 124-162</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special attention should be paid to the following Kafka stories: “The Judgment”, "In the Penal Colony", "Before the Law", "The Worry of the Father of the Family", "A Report to the Academy", "A Starvation Artist", "Josefine, the Singer of The Mouse People", "The Hunter Gracchus."
**Week 6**  
Oct 11  Tu  Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*, Ch 1-5, p. 1-50  
Oct 13  Th  Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*, Ch 6-10, p. 51-99

**Week 7**  
Oct 18  Tu  Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*, Ch 11-16, p. 100-146  
Oct 20  Th  Hurston, *Their Eyes were Watching God*, Ch 17-20, p. 147-193

**Week 8**  

**Week 9**  
Nov 01  Tu  Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*, p. 87-123  

**Week 10**  
Nov 08  Tu  Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*, Part One, Ch 1-3, p. 1-71  
Nov 10  Th  Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*, Part Two, Ch 1-4, p. 71-118

**Week 11**  
Nov 15  Tu  Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*, Part Two, Ch 4-6, p. 119-169  
Nov 17  Th  Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*, Chapters 1-6, p. 1-76

**Week 12**  
Nov 22  Tu  Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*, Chapters 7-12, p. 77-145  
Nov 24  Th  No class (Thanksgiving Break)

**Week 13**  
Nov 29  Tu  Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*, Chapters 13-18, p. 146-217  
Dec 01  Th  Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*, Chapters 19-23, p. 218-288

**Week 14**  
Dec 06  Tu  Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*  
Dec 08  Th  Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*

**Week 15**  
Dec 13  Tu  Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis*  
Dec 15  Th  Last Class Meeting

**2nd Paper Due Date:** December 18, 2016 (to be emailed by 5 pm).