



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Political Science

**PS3215WAO Political Thought and
Contemporary Issues**

**Winter 2020: Food, Fashion and Power
MW 11:30AM 01:00PM OA 2008**

INSTRUCTOR DR. D.WEST

dwest@lakeheadu.ca

Office OA3019

Office Hours by Appointment

This course will introduce students to three unique and intersectional issues in contemporary political thought. Food politics have become a focal issue in relation to poverty, land use, health and nutrition, and capitalist productions and distributions of wealth. The politics of fashion are inextricably linked to issues surrounding the discourses of identity politics, gender and social justice, and labour in globalized economic and capital streams. As the essential nucleus of political action, power is transformative and opaque, linked to social action and social exclusion.

Grading

Attendance and Participation20%

Research Report.....50%

Final Assignment30%

Reading – D2L weekly readings

POLITICAL THOUGHT AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: MODULE 1 THE POLITICS OF FOOD

MODULE 1 (January 6- February 3rd) THE POLITICS OF FOOD		An Introduction to THE POLITICS OF FOOD
		https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8D-OteYFR0 The politics of food has been an important element in the growth of industrial capitalism at a global scale. The introduction of food harvesting and preparation techniques means that more people than ever have access to food but at what cost to their health?
		The Industrial Food System
	Reading	<i>(2020) Civil Society Challenges the Global Food System the International Monsanto Tribunal</i>
		Organic and Alternative Food Systems
	Reading	<i>(2016) Operationalizing Local Food: Goals, Actions, and Indicators for Alternative Food Systems</i>
		Food Policy and Reconstituting Healthy Communities
	Reading	<i>(2018) The Science of Food Security</i>
		The Future of Food
Reading	<i>(2020) Changing Food Behaviors in a Desirable Direction</i>	
	Learner Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A greater awareness of food systems and their relationship to capitalism and globalization. • An understanding of the challenges of food security and food sovereignty. • An understanding of the linkages between food, community and health. • An appreciation of the sophistication and complexity of the academic field of Food Studies.

POLITICAL THOUGHT AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES MODULE 2: THE POLITICS OF FASHION

MODULE 2 (February 3rd – March 2nd) THE POLITICS OF FASHION	An Introduction to THE POLITICS OF FASHION	
		<p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ius7XkWmwmU</p> <p>Fashion is everywhere and in everything. The idea of fashion started distinction of class and placement in hierarchical structures and continues as a politics of exclusions in Fast versus Slow fashion, gendered fashion, and privileged versus underprivileged fashion. It intersects with the power of food production as packaging and marketing lifestyles – you are what and where you wear and you are what and where you eat.</p>
		Fashion and the Myth of Inclusion
	Reading	<i>(2008) On Myths and Fashion: Barthes and Cultural Studies</i>
		Bodies and Dress
	Reading	<i>(2019) The Embodied Turn: Making and Remaking Dress</i>
		Fashion as Gendered Experience
	Reading	<i>(2019) Suit of Power: Fashion Politics and Hegemonic Masculinity</i>
		The Future of Fashion
	Reading	<i>(2019) Fashion Futuring in the Anthropocene: Sustainable Fashion</i>
Learner Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the intersectionality of food and Fashion as identity producers. • An awareness of fashion as a social determinant of poverty. • An understanding of the relationship of fashion to political Power. • A greater awareness of the politics of fashion production, Distribution and consumer behavior. 	

POLITICAL THOUGHT AND CONTEMPORARY ISSUES: Module 3 POWER IN POLITICS

**MODULE
3
(March 2nd
– April
2nd)**

**POWER IN
POLITICS**

	An Introduction to THE POLITICS OF POWER	
	https://www.ted.com/talks/scott_galloway_how_amazon_apple_facebook_manipulate_our_emotions?language=en	
	The nature of power in politics has been the centrepeice of Western political philosophy since Plato. Should the philosopher rule? Does he/want to rule? Has philosophy and ethical decision-making given way to the power of big-data manipulation, algorithms of consumer identity and lifestyle politics?	
	The Nature of Technological Power	
Reading	<i>(2016) The Disciplines of Power and the Weight of Love</i>	
	The Power of Big Data	
Reading	<i>(2017) Big Data, Ethics and Religion</i>	
	Power as Perpetual Resistance and Resilience	
Reading	<i>(2020) The Neoliberal City as Utopia of Exclusion</i>	
	The Future of Power	
Reading	<i>(2020) This is not an Essay about Trump</i>	
Learner Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An awareness of the role that technology plays in contemporary society and politics. • An understanding of the continuity of questions in political philosophy. • A recognition of the role of the citizen in a “digitized” Democratic society. • An appreciation of the density and complexity of power relations. 	