Section Syllabus

Teaching Fellow: Brandon Bloch
Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-5 p.m. or by appointment
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Section Expectations:

- **Attendance:** Attendance at section meetings is a requirement of this course and will count toward the section participation component of your grade. You are permitted one excused absence, for any reason, during the semester. Please send me an e-mail in advance if you will be absent. If you think you will need to miss more than one section, please speak with me as soon as possible.

- **Readings:** This course has a moderate amount of reading, approximately 150-200 pages per week. You are expected to complete all of the reading each week, though you should anticipate spending more time on the academic texts than the narrative sources. The purpose of section is not to quiz you on the details of the week’s reading, but we cannot have a substantive, engaging discussion if everybody has not come prepared. On the midterm and final exams, you will be expected to support your answers with examples from the readings. Please see me during office hours if you would like to discuss strategies for managing the reading load.

- **Participation:** I expect you to come to section prepared to actively participate in the discussion. Debate and disagreement are encouraged, but please be respectful of your classmates’ comments. I am happy to meet with you in office hours to discuss strategies for speaking up in section. Remember that an informed question also counts as participation.

- **Response Papers:** I have created a “Discussion Forum” for this section on the course iSite. As part of your section grade, you will be expected to post four response papers of approximately 300 words each during the semester. The responses should not summarize the week’s readings, but should offer an idea, observation, or question that you would like to bring up in the discussion. You might also use the readings to reflect on a point made in lecture. Response papers are due at 5 p.m. the day before section. I will structure the discussions in part around concerns raised in your responses.

- **Office Hours:** My office hours will be held on Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. in the lobby of Robinson Hall. If you would like to meet and are not available at this time, please e-mail me for an alternative appointment. I plan to arrive at Emerson Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:45 a.m., before lecture—this is also a good time to speak with me if you have a quick question. I encourage you to come to office hours during the first few weeks of class to introduce yourself and talk about your goals for the semester.
• **Research Papers:** The major writing assignment for this course is a 10-12 page (double-spaced) paper, due on **Monday, December 8**. We will discuss details of the assignment in mid-October. You will be expected to submit a one-page description of your topic and a preliminary bibliography by **Wednesday, November 12**. I would like to meet with each of you in the week before the topic description is due, to discuss your plans for the paper. I can also comment on a draft, if it is submitted by Monday, December 1. Any draft you send me should show substantial individual effort—I am not able to offer feedback on outlines or individual paragraphs.

• **Late Policy:** If you believe you will require an extension on an assignment, please speak with me as soon as possible; Prof. Martin will need to approve all extensions. Except in cases of a medical or family emergency, extensions will not be granted in the week before an assignment is due. Late work for which an extension has not been granted will be graded down one-third of a letter for each day late (e.g. A to A- for one day late).

• **Collaboration Policy:** For the take-home midterm, you should not discuss the substance of your responses with other students. For the term paper, you may discuss your topic with your classmates, but the paper you turn in must reflect your own ideas and approach to the subject, and your own words. If you receive writing help from the Harvard Writing Center or another tutor, please note this on your final paper. Obviously, plagiarizing sources is unacceptable; we will discuss rules for citing sources in section. You should also become familiar with Harvard’s plagiarism policy: [http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page355322](http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k70847&pageid=icb.page355322)

• **Laptops in Section:** Laptops are permitted in section for referencing course readings and notes only. Cell phones are not permitted. If you must send an e-mail or make a call during section, you may leave the classroom and return when you are ready.

• **Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring special facilities or services should contact Harvard’s Accessible Education Office (AEO). AEO will give you a letter which you should bring to me and Prof. Martin outlining the nature of your disability and the accommodations you require. All correspondence concerning accommodations for students with disabilities is confidential.