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EDUCATION 486-4

SPECIAL TOPIC: POWER IN EDUCATIONAL THOUGHT

INTERSESSION 1980

INSTRUCTOR: David Nyberg

Tuesday, Thursday, 4:30 - 8:30

This course takes up the challenge of introducing power into the vocabulary of educational studies. If Bertrand Russell was right in claiming that "the fundamental concept in social science is Power, in the same sense in which Energy is the fundamental concept in physics," then it must be seen as odd that the challenge has not been taken up before. One question to be answered is why such a fundamental concept, such a universal category of human social life has lain so completely neglected in education for so long.

Discussion will concentrate on analyzing the essential attributes and several forms of power in ordinary social transactions. These attributes and forms will be put together and proposed as a new conception of power that has a good deal of relevance to the understanding of educational processes (curriculum design, the means of instruction, and evaluation) and has important implications for a renovation in the ethics of education.

The course will conclude by linking the new conception of power with a logic of freedom that emphasizes the skills of diagnosing constraints, and by arguing that teaching these skills along with knowledge about power is both practically feasible and ethically incumbent on contemporary education.

TOPICS:

1. A survey of the best that has been written about power in philosophy, political science, sociology, and psychology.
2. Personal and ethical ambivalence about power.
3. The very idea of power.
4. Forms of power in education
5. Power and the logic of freedom.
6. Toward a renovated ethics of education.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

- ARENDDT, H.; ON VIOLENCE
- COLEMAN, J. S.; POWER AND THE STRUCTURE OF SOCIETY
- DOYLE, J. F.; EDUCATIONAL JUDGEMENTS
- LUKES, S.; POWER
- MILGRAM, S.; OBEDIENCE TO AUTHORITY
- NYBERG, D.; POWER OVER POWER
- OPPENHEIM, F.; DIMENSIONS OF FREEDOM

SELECTED READINGS:

These are some books and articles that students will find useful, and from which specific assignments will be drawn.

- BARRY, Brian (ed.) Power and Political Theory
- BELL, David V.J. Power, Influence, and Authority
- BERLE, Adolph A. Power
- BERLIN, Isaiah "The Question of Machiavelli". The New York Review, November 4, 1971

CARTWRIGHT, D. (ed.) Studies in Social Power
CHAMPLIN, John R. (ed.) Power
CLEGG, Stewart; Power, Rule, and Domination
CLEGG, Stewart, The Theory of Power and Organization
DAHL. Robert A. Modern Political Analysis
DAHL. Robert A. "Pöwer". International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences
JOUVENEL, Bertrand de; On Power
KIPNIS, David; The Powerholders
LA BOETIE, Etienne de; The Politics of Obedience: The Discourse of Voluntary Servitude
LASSWELL, Harold D.; Power and Personality
LASSWELL, Harold D. and KAPLAN, Abraham; Power and Society
McCLELLAND, David C.; Power: The Inner Experience
MAY, Rollo; Power and Innocence
MERRIAM, Charles E.; Political Power
NAGEL, Jack H.; The Descriptive Analysis of Power
NYBERG, David; Power Over Power
OLSEN, M. E. (ed.) Power in Societies
PLATO, Gorgias
WEBER, Max; The Theory of Social and Economic Organization
WINTER, David G.; The Power Motive
WRONG, D. H.; Power