

AN-NAJAH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY



SEMINAR EDUARDO GALEANO—ETHICS AND RESISTANCE

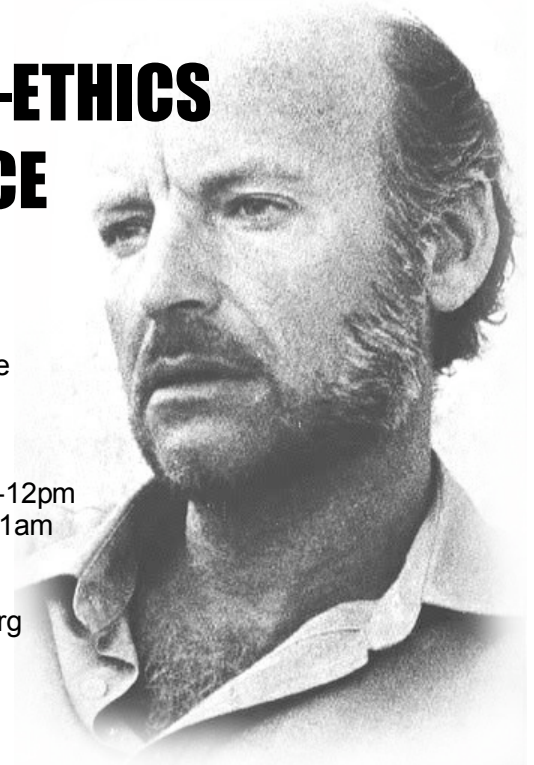
Dr. Ian Douglas

Visiting Professor
Department of Political Science

Spring semester, 2005

Class hours: Sat, Mon, Wed, 11am-12pm
Office hours: Sat, Mon, Wed, 9-11am

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All the soarings of my mind begin in my blood
— Rainer Maria Rilke

Death, which had me in her grip a few times and let me go, often calls
me still and I tell her to go to hell
— Eduardo Galeano

Leon says mad dogs are beautiful. I believe him
— René Char

Israeli oppression of the Palestinians is among the worst injustices of the modern era, performed daily by acts of brutality and impunity. In this course we will read the diary of a legendary figure of political courage—Uruguayan poet, witness and historian, Eduardo Galeano. *Days and Nights of Love and War* was written during the 1970s in the context of dictatorship and state terrorism across Latin America. Many of Galeano's friends were killed or disappeared, and he himself was exiled after struggling against military regimes in Uruguay and Argentina. I have picked this text not simply for the resonance between Galeano's experience and that of the Palestinians, but because the book contains the seeds of profound resistance, political awakening, defiance in the face of fascism, and an ultimate victory.

CLASS TEXT

Eduardo Galeano, *Days and Nights of Love and War* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1983)

WHERE TO FIND THE CLASS TEXT

Go to "Maktaba Farrah"—a photocopying and stationary shop near to the west gate of An-Najah University—and purchase a copy of Galeano's book. Ask for the readings for Dr. Douglas's "Seminar" class.

Additional notes and readings may be provided as the semester progresses.

CLASS ORGANIZATION

The class will be a mixture of me talking and us talking. We should remain flexible and find the best way for you to benefit.

In general terms, I believe that my role as a professor is not to think for you, but rather to offer interpretations that make **you** think. My role is not to be the “Voice of Truth”, but rather a guide to help you weigh up the issues and find your own voice.

You must read for this class. If you don't read we will have nothing to talk about, you won't learn anything, and you won't understand what I say—even if I were to say it in Arabic!

Every week I will endeavor to provide brief summaries of the readings in English and one page of key points translated into Arabic.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment of this course will be divided as follows:

Written assignment #1	(due in the 7 th week)	20%
Written assignment #2	(due in the 12 th week)	45%
Final exam (Oral)	(starting in the 12 th week)	25%
Class participation		10%



Written assignments will take the form of two short essays, the first of which must be at least 4 pages in length (not including references), the second of which must be 6 pages in length (not including references).

Your task in these assignments is to respond critically and thoughtfully to a specific question. A list of questions will be distributed for each essay assignment. When preparing research papers you must respond only to questions that I assign. Essays that do not address a question I assign will not be accepted.

Essays should normally be typed and be in English.

GRADING GUIDELINES

90% to 100% = Excellent grasp of the literature with evidence of independent thought and argument. Evidence that the student went beyond the in-class readings.

80% to 90% = Very good grasp of main themes but inconclusive. Technically very good, but lacking in individual insight.

70% to 80% = A good effort but perhaps confused or confusing. Proof read your work! Many “C” grade essays could be much improved if simply proof read and thought about for a couple of hours more.

60% - 70% = A passing grade. Competent but displaying little in the way of real effort. Often simply repetitious of in-class readings.

Below 60% = Will often be “off-topic” (e.g., talking about the Palestinian question out of context), or very poorly structured or written. Will display no independent thought and little familiarity with issues or key texts.

Please note: I am not here to correct your English spelling or grammar, but please spell-check your work and try to make it readable in English.

CLASS RULES

No one can be forced to learn so we will have no rules, but please come to class for the next 3 months with the following:

1. **PATIENCE.** I know this class will be difficult for you in English. Please be patient. I am here to help you as much as I can.
2. **ATTENTIVENESS.** I will aim to convey the essence of this subject in simple terms. Please help me by remaining attentive.
3. **HONESTY.** Plagiarism (pretending that other people's work is your own) defeats the point of you being at university. You are not here simply to gain a certificate. You are here to gain knowledge that will help you and others in this difficult but vital adventure we call life.
4. **CURIOSITY.** "Dare to Know!" said Immanuel Kant. Knowledge is not merely enriching, it is the foundation of resistance to power.

COURSE OUTLINE

During the semester there will be at least two "reading weeks", at dates to be confirmed.

Week 0. Introducing Eduardo Galeano

- Session 1.** Class organization / First introduction of themes & concepts
- Session 2.** Introducing "Galeano"
- Session 3.** Eduardo's books

PART ONE: DAYS AND NIGHTS OF LOVE AND WAR

Week 1.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 11-17
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 17-24
- Session 3.** Discussion: Possession

Week 2.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 25-30
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 31-38
- Session 3.** Discussion: Magic

Week 3.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 38-46
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 47-56
- Session 3.** Discussion: Death

Week 4.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 56-62
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 62-67
- Session 3.** Discussion: Resistance

Week 5.

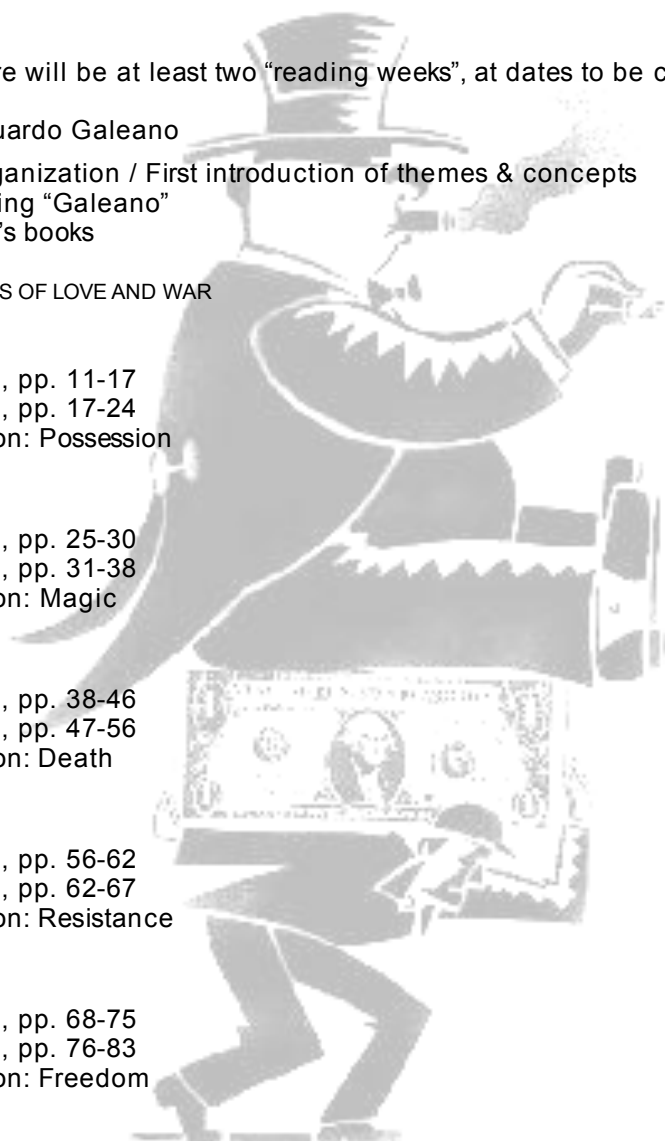
- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 68-75
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 76-83
- Session 3.** Discussion: Freedom

Week 6.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 83-91
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 91-98
- Session 3.** Discussion: The System

Week 7.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 98-106
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 106-113
- Session 3.** Discussion: Love



Week 8.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 113-120
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 120-127
- Session 3.** Discussion: Childhood

Week 9.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 128-134
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 134-141
- Session 3.** Discussion: Exile



Week 10.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 142-151
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 151-160
- Session 3.** Discussion: Memory

Week 11.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 160-171
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 171-178
- Session 3.** Discussion: Joy

PART TWO: IN DEFENSE OF THE WORD

Week 12.

- Session 1.** Galeano, pp. 183--188
- Session 2.** Galeano, pp. 188-194
- Session 3.** Discussion: Writing

Oral examinations will follow the conclusion of the course.



We must assume our existence as broadly as we in any way can; everything, even the unheard-of, must be possible in it. This is at bottom the only courage that is demanded of us: to have courage for the most strange, the most inexplicable. — *Rainer Maria Rilke*