People are many kinds of subjects: personal, relational, political, psychological, affective. These identities are not as easily disentangled as many suppose. No clear boundaries exist between each of these and any of the others; while one may act politically (by, say, voting), that action is driven by a myriad of demands, desires, and goals. Similarly, as recent reconfigurations of the United States political system has made clear, political collectivities also end up driving personal attitudes.

So what does it mean to say that, for example, our emotional states determine our politics, but so too do our political stances effect our emotions? What becomes of the study of politics in such a system? If political science is to result in meaningful investigations, it must involve a wide range of topics. It must build in many presuppositions about what kinds of subjects it studies, relying mostly on historical conjunctions. And when those conjunctions prove erroneous -- as when assumptions about voting behavior in the 2000 and 2006 U.S. presidential elections led the plurality of political scientists to inaccurately predict the outcome -- the results can delegitimize social science itself.

The subject of this course is therefore subjectivity itself. In order to comprehend what sorts of people are political actors and what kinds of political actions produce certain kinds of people, we will investigate theories of human becoming. In doing so, we will question the conditions of political science itself, drawing not only on political theory and the politics of psychology, but also from studies of affect, identity, ideology, and subjugation.

As a class, we will be thinking alongside our own forms of subjectivity. What are the dynamics of intellectualism, of academic inquiry, of mastery? Which kinds of knowledge are we drawn to, and what underpins their legitimacy? While this class will encourage the development of your own political scholarship, it may also peer into your own sort of persona, asking how our collective methods of scholarship are made sense of by theories of desire and absence.

Alongside the below readings, you will also be responsible for developing a research paper (at an approximate length of 20 pages) that concerns political theory and subjectivity as it applies to a topic of interest to you. This paper can be analytical or normative in nature, addressing both the variety of issues brought up in class and the variety of issues the topic itself raises. During the final two weeks of class, students will each present the results of their research to the class as a whole, in a series of approximately 20 minute presentations.
A rough deadline to keep in mind follows:

Decide on topic: End of February
Outline subjects and issues: Spring Break
Create overall research project: End of March
Discuss with professor: April 2 - 16
Start writing: Mid-April
Present research to class: May 5
Turn in final paper: May 12 (Tuesday)

**Required Texts**
These books are available at the UWM online bookstore. All other required readings are available on Canvas and are marked with an asterisk.

**Isbn: 0822347253**  
Title: The Promise of Happiness  
Author: Ahmed, Sara  
Publisher: Duke Univ Pr  
Copyright: 2010-03-16

**Isbn: 9781781687062**  
Title: Crowds and Party  
Author: Dean, Jodi  
Publisher: Verso  
Copyright: 2018-09-11

**Isbn: 0415253926**  
Title: Écrits  
Author: Lacan, Jacques  
Publisher: Routledge  
Copyright: 2001-07-16

**Isbn: 978-0-8223-6296-8**  
Title: The Misinterpellated Subject  
Author: Martel, James R.  
Publisher: Duke Univ Pr  
Copyright: 2017-02-24

**Isbn: 9780262512688**  
Title: The Parallax View  
Author: Zizek, Slavoj  
Publisher: MIT Press  
Copyright: 2009-04-30
Dateline Syllabus

January 21: Introduction

January 28: How to be “Civilized”

Sigmund Freud, Civilization and its Discontents, trans. James Strachey*
Chantal Mouffe, “Politics and the Political”**

February 5: Fields, Inside and Out

Gabriel Almond, “Political Theory and Political Science”*
Robert Jervis, “The Drunkard’s Search”*
Herbert A. Simon, “Human Nature in Politics”*

February 12: Pathologies

Harold D. Lasswell, Psychopathology and Politics (Chapters 1-4, 13, afterword)*
Douglas Togerson, “Harold D. Lasswell and Critical Policy Studies”**

February 18: Philosophy and Origins

William James, “Aesthetic and Moral Principles”*
“The Pragmatic Method”*
“The Moral Equivalent of War”*
“On a Certain Blindness in Human Beings”**
Alexander Livingston, “Excited Subjects: William James and the Politics of Radical Empiricism”*
Shannon Sullivan, “James and Feminist Philosophy of Emotion”*

February 25: Colonialism, Psychoanalysis

Frantz Fanon, “Colonial War and Mental Disorder”*
“Letter Between Psychiatry and Anticolonial Commitment”*
Nigel C. Gibson and Roberto Beneduce, Frantz Fanon, Psychiatry and Politics (Intro, Chap 4, 10)*

March 3: Being and Security

C J Jung, “The Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious”*
Carol Cohn, “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Professionals”
Brent J. Steele, Restraint in International Politics (Intro, Chap. 1, 5)*
March 10: Bad Subjects

Amia Srinvasan, “Does Anyone have the Right to Sex?”
Sara Ahmed, The Promise of Happiness

March 16-20: Spring Break

March 24: Objects Petit a

Jacques Lacan, Écrits

March 31: Displacement

Slavoj Žižek, The Parallax View

April 7: Collectivity

Jodi Dean, Crowds and Power

April 14: Ideology and Apparatus

Louis Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes towards an Investigation)”*
Janet E. Halley, “’Like Race’ Arguments”*

April 23: Law and Ideology

James Martell, The Misinterpellated Subject

April 28: The Limits of Ideology and Social Science

Steven Greene, “Understanding Party Identification”*
Shanto Iyengar and Sean J. Westwood, “Fear and Loathing across Party Lines”*
Jonathan Havercroft and Justin Murphy, “Is the Tea Party Libertarian, Authoritarian, or Something Else?”*

May 5: Research Presentation

May 12: Final Paper Due (Bolton 642), 4:00 PM