

POLITICAL SCIENCE 370
THE POLITICS OF SURVEILLANCE
SPRING 2016

Professor: Colin J. Bennett
Class Session: Mon, Thurs 2.30-3.50pm: COR A125
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The constant and ubiquitous monitoring of everyday life is a familiar theme within contemporary political debate. Each day in the media we read stories about organizations in public and private sectors capturing personal information for a variety of purposes, and using increasingly sophisticated technologies. Surveillance is no longer an activity confined to criminals and suspects; it is a common feature of everyone's life. We surrender information about our behaviors, beliefs and preferences all the time, and often unawares.

In this course we will investigate the nature and ubiquity of modern surveillance. We will discuss some of the prominent theories of surveillance. And we will debate its effects in a number of contexts – communication, travel, consumption, work and education. We will also explore the various responses – legal, regulatory, technological and socio-political. Much of the literature on this subject is not from political science. Nevertheless, we will view the problem not as lawyers, sociologists, or computer scientists, but as students of politics. The “Politics of Surveillance” signals that this is one of the most significant political questions of our day that requires careful research, understanding, critique and informed debate.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

My research interests have concentrated on the very issues that we are covering in this class. I have written about theories of privacy and surveillance, the various policy instruments at domestic and international levels, the political economy of personal information and the complicated and diverse attitudes of citizens toward the introduction of new technologies and the implications for their personal privacy. These issues are, of course, inherently comparative. By comparing how different jurisdictions have tried to respond to the similar challenges posed by new information and communications technologies, I can learn a great deal about the abilities of those states to manage technological change, and also about their institutions, policies and cultures. More about my research interests and publications can be found at: www.colinbennett.ca

READINGS

All readings are linked from Coursespaces, including the course text which you should all read in the first two weeks: *Transparent Lives: Surveillance in Canada* (Athabasca University Press, 2014).

Please note that from time to time I will be circulating topical news stories for discussion at the beginning of class. You will be responsible for these extra articles as well.

The Course schedule and the readings are all presented in Course Spaces.

REQUIREMENTS

3-4 page Paper proposal (Jan 21st)	10%
Research Paper on a Surveillance practice	40%
Presentation on research paper	5%
Class attendance and Participation	5%
Midterm Take-Home exam	40%

THE RESEARCH PAPER

By Jan 11th, each member of the class will choose a particular GROUP through the CHOICE function enabled on Coursespaces. The class will be grouped into ten sections: communications, Internet, air travel, road travel, employment, schools and universities, health, consumer and video-surveillance.

You will then each select a specific paper topic and examine the ethical, social, and political and policy conflicts involved in a particular practice involving the capture of personal data within the general context you have chosen. There is an enormous range of sources online; I have listed some useful sources in Coursespaces. But this is a research paper, and I want to encourage you to do some *original* work, and perhaps make direct contacts with relevant organizations. This is a major project (worth in total 50% of your grade).

You are each to write a short (3-4 page) paper proposal [to be posted on Coursespaces by Jan 21st] in which you describe the organization and information practice in very general terms and demonstrate that you have done some preliminary work on the issue. You should also include a bibliography. These should be shared with me and with the other members of your group. This part of the assignment is worth 10% of your overall grade.

Group presentations will be organized for the classes from March 7th until April 4th. You will each be responsible for presenting a ten-minute précis of the paper during the relevant class-period. But I am also expecting the presentation to be integrated into a broader group presentation, using Powerpoint, for which you all take some responsibility. The entire class will then discuss the broad issues, the implications and the solutions. In

the final paper, each of you will use the theoretical literature presented in the first part of the class to come to an understanding of the case in question.

I have listed a number of possible topics below. You have to think about this assignment now. This is a full research project that cannot be adequately completed unless considered over the entire term.

THE FINAL PAPER MAY BE UPLOADED AT ANY TIME BETWEEN A APRIL 4th and 5pm, APRIL 8th. PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER THAT TIME AND THE SYSTEM WILL NOT ACCEPT PAPERS POSTED AFTER THAT TIME. NO EXTENSIONS WILL BE GIVEN UNLESS AN ACADEMIC CONCESSION FORM WITH A PROPER MEDICAL NOTE IS PROVIDED.

I will respond to all or your work electronically, and send back a corrected copy with track changes and comments. No paper copies will be accepted or returned. Please only submit papers with a .doc or .docx extension. (Thus no .txt or .pdf files please). Please ensure that your paper is labelled as follows: [lastname]370PAPER.DOC

This paper counts for 40% of your grade, and cannot be completed adequately in less than 4,000 words, not including footnotes and bibliography. Please do not go over 4500 words. Papers should be typed (double-spaced) and should include in-text citations and a bibliography. Citations guides can be found at the library website:

<http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/guides/index.php> Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please ensure that you are familiar with University and departmental rules about academic integrity:

<http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php>

I also encourage you to visit *The Writing Centre* for assistance with your term paper. Assistance from the writing centre can make a huge difference in your confidence and writing skills. For an appointment, visit their website at:

<http://ltc.uvic.ca/servicesprograms/twc.php>

Here is a list of possible topics. Other ideas will be found in the Gilliom and Monahan and Transparent Lives texts. The paper will be easier to research if it is about Canada.

Communications/Internet Surveillance

- Cellular telephone surveillance
- Geo-location of communications
- Call management services
- Surveillance of e-mail and text
- Surveillance of Search functions
- Surveillance of web browsing
- Surveillance of social media

Surveillance and Road Travel

- Intelligent vehicle highway systems
- Automated License plate recognition
- Photo radar
- Red-light cameras

Enhanced Drivers Licenses

Surveillance and Air Travel

Airport surveillance
Travel identity cards and e-passports
Biometric scanning at airports (e.g. US VISIT)
No Fly lists
Body Scanning

Surveillance and Work

Keystroke monitoring
E-mail and social media monitoring
Video-surveillance in the workplace
Drug-testing in the workplace
“Active” badges
Bring your own Devices (BYODs)

Surveillance and Education

Surveillance in Schools
Surveillance in Universities

Surveillance and Health

Pharmaceutical databases
Electronic Health Records
Patient and medical records databases
Lab testing

Surveillance and Consumption

Telemarketing
Direct mail advertising
Credit-reporting
Banking and financial transactions
Barwatch programs
Customer loyalty programs
Airline frequent flyer programs

Video Surveillance

In subways
On buses
In the Streets
In prisons
Drones
Cop cams

