

Surveillance and Repression

POLS 082

Prof. Sam Handlin

W 1:15-4:00

Trotter 303

Course Description

What does the state know about us and why does it need that information? This course examines the politics of state surveillance in countries around the world.

The first half investigates the growth of state surveillance in Europe and the US in the 19th and 20th centuries, the politics that surrounded the new surveillance state, and how surveillance technologies were developed and deployed in colonial contexts.

We then consider new forms of digital surveillance in the 21st century in the US and other countries, examining mass surveillance after 9/11, the birth of a shadowy global market for spyware and other surveillance tools, the new digital Chinese surveillance state, the role of big tech companies like Google, and the use of artificial intelligence.

