

FUNDAMENTALS OF POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOC 260H1S
Winter 2014
University of Toronto, St. George Campus

Course Director: Jasmin Hristov

Seminar Time and Location: Mondays 1-3pm, RW 117

Contact Information: jasmin.hristov@utoronto.ca; 416 978-6579

Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30 and 5:30-6:20 Room 225 Office C, Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina

TA: Emily Laxer; emily.laxer@utoronto.ca

Course Description

This course looks at the relationship between state and society and introduces students to major theoretical approaches within political sociology. The first objective of the course is to provide an understanding of the interplay between political and economic processes as well as local and global forces in bringing about social change. The second is to examine the relationships among social classes, social movements, and the state, as well as how those affect and are affected by globalization.

Prerequisite

The prerequisite to take SOC260H1S is SOC101Y1 OR SOC102H1 OR SOC103H1. Students without the prerequisite will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

Course Format

Lecture

The lecture will consist of an interactive presentation by the instructor, at times accompanied by a video documentary. The last 10-15 minutes of lecture will be devoted for clarification questions. Students are expected to engage seriously with the assigned readings before attending lecture.

Tutorials

The pedagogical approach of this course rests on the idea that learning is a collective process and thus, the classroom should be a community of learners. Tutorials are offered with the purpose of enriching your learning experience by facilitating the understanding of readings and lecture content as well as by offering a space for questions and discussion. Tutorial time will be used for reviewing the material taught (with guiding questions provided by the instructor) and answering any questions students might have (whether clarification or discussion-oriented questions). Most questions posed by students contribute to the collective learning process, thus you are highly encouraged to do so. Tutorial attendance is not mandatory but you are expected to make use of this resource.

Tutorials are scheduled as follows (you must sign up for a tutorial by the second week of class):

Tutorial 1 Monday 3:30-4:30pm, Wetmore Hall (New College), Room 75

Tutorial 2 Monday 4:30-5:30pm, Sidney Smith Hall, Room 1078

Tutorial 3 Monday 3:30-4:30 pm, Anthropology Building, Room 124

Tutorial 4 Monday 4:30 – 5:30pm, Sidney Smith Hall, Room 2101

Tutorial 5(* to be confirmed) Monday 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Sidney Smith Hall, Room 2129

Required Texts

- ❖ Nash, K. (2010). *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*. West Sussex: Blackwell Publishers Ltd.
- ❖ Course kit (Reading package)

Video Documentaries

Documentaries shown in class form an integral part of the course material and will be covered by the tests and exam.

Evaluation

Type of Assessment	Weighting	Due Date
Test 1	25%	February 3, 2013
Test 2	35%	March 3, 2013
Final Exam	40%	Date to be announced

The final date to drop the course without receiving a grade is March 9, 2014.

E-mail /Online Communication

E-mail communication is for providing short answers to any clarification questions regarding the course content and/or organization. Your emails will be responded within 2 days. If you require help with course material, please use tutorial time to bring up these questions or arrange to see me during office hours. Please check Blackboard regularly for course announcements.

Attendance: Regular attendance at lectures is required in order for you to do well in the course. Lectures explain *as well as supplement* the readings. One does not substitute for the other. If you need to miss lecture, you will not be penalized, however you should ensure that you know someone in the class from whom you can borrow lecture notes. Lecture *power-points* will be posted on Learning System/Blackboard. Keep in mind that these *do not contain all lecture content or explanations* but rather constitute an outline/point-form organization of the content, including some key definitions.

Use of Electronic Devices in Class: The use of electronic devices for purposes other than note-taking / course-related work is not allowed. It inhibits learning and also is disruptive and disrespectful.

Taping / Recording / Photographing Lectures

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are the instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record lecture or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructor's explicit permission and may not do so unless permission is granted. This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Blackboard materials, etc. Once obtained, such permission is only for that individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them in any way. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell them in other form without formal permission.

Talking during Lecture

Talking to your classmates during lecture (even if you are whispering) is disturbing. Please refrain from talking unless you have been invited to do so by the instructor. If you are unclear about something that was said by the instructor, please put up your hand instead of asking your classmates. This will ensure that you or your classmates do not miss anything important and fall behind during lecture.

Blackboard: Announcements, handouts, lecture power-points, and any additional learning aids will be posted here, so please check the website twice a week.

Policy on Missed Tests

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero. Students who miss a test for legitimate reasons will be given the opportunity to write a make-up test if **within three days** they provide the instructor or their TA with a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper

documentation from a physician or college registrar. In case of illness, you must supply a duly completed *Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form* (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). A doctor's note is not acceptable. The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted to her or your TA. If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar. The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted to her or your TA.

Policy on Disputing Term Test Grades

If you disagree with the grade you were given on your test, you must present your argument in writing and schedule a meeting with your TA / instructor **within one month** after the test was returned. Your letter must take into consideration the answers that were taken-up in class as well as the comments you received on the test and explain why despite of these, you are still convinced that your grade should have been higher.

Accessibility Needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978-8060 or visit: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

Academic Integrity

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the U of T. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your U of T degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document. Potential offences on tests and exams include, but are not limited to:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone;
- Looking at someone else's answers;
- Letting someone else look at your answers;
- Misrepresenting your identity;
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. If you have any questions about what is or what is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

JAN 6

- Introduction to the course and the elements of its analytical approach

PART ONE: THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING THE STATE AND POLITICAL POWER

JAN 13

- Nash, K. (2010). Chapter 1: Changing Definitions of Politics and Power – 1.1. The Marxist Tradition of Political Sociology. In *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*.
- Simon, R. (1991). Gramsci's Concept of Hegemony. In *Gramsci's Political Thought: An Introduction*. London: Lawrence and Wishart Ltd.

JAN 20

- Nash, K. (2010). Chapter 1: Changing Definitions of Politics and Power – 1.2. The Weberian Tradition and 1.3. The Durkhemian Tradition. In *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*.

JAN 27

- Nash, K. (2010). Chapter 1: Changing Definitions of Politics and Power 1.4. Foucauldian Definitions of Power and Politics. In *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*.
- Giddens, A. (1984). Elements of the Theory of Structuration. In *The Constitution of Society. Outline of the Theory of Structuration*. Cambridge: Polity, pp.1-34.

PART TWO: GLOBALIZATION, CAPITALISM, AND THE STATE

FEB 3

- **TEST 1**
- Harvey, D. (2005). The Neoliberal State. In *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Harvey, D. (2005). Uneven Geographical Developments. In *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. New York: Oxford University Press.

FEB 10

- Nash, K. (2010). Chapter 2: Politics in a Small World – 2.1. Explaining Globalization and 2.2. State Transformation and Imperialism. In *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*.
- Robinson, W. (2004). The Transnational State. In *A theory of global capitalism: Transnational production, transnational capitalists, and the transnational state*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

FEB 17 READING WEEK

FEB 24

- Panitch, L. (2003). Globalization Begins (and Ends) at Home: Bringing the State Back In. In Griffin Cohen, M. and McBride, S. (Eds.). *Global Turbulance*. London: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.
- Petras, J. and Veltmeyer, H. (2003). The Centrality of the State. In *The new development politics: The age of empire building and new social movements*. Hants, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited.

PART THREE: CIVIL SOCIETY, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

MARCH 3

- **TEST 2**
- Nash, K. (2010). Chapter 4: Citizenship. – 4.1. T.H. Marshall: Citizenship, Social Class and the Nation State; 4.2 Citizenship, Wealth, and Poverty; 4.3. Citizenship, Sex, and Sexuality; 4.4. Citizenship, Racialization and Ethnicity. In *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*
- Goldring, L. and Landolt, P. (2013). The Social Production of Non-Citizenship. In *Producing and Negotiating Non-Citizenship: Precarious Legal Status in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp.154-174.

MARCH 10

- Gidengil, E. (2012). An Overview of the Social Dimension of Vote Choice. In Kanji, M., Bilodeau, A. and Scotto, T.J. (Eds.), *The Canadian Election Studies: Assessing Four Decades of Influence*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press.
- Andersen, R. (2013). The Class-Party Relationship in Canada, 1965-2004. In Evans, G. and De Graaf, N.D. (Eds.), *Political Choice Matters: Explaining the Strength of Class and Religious Cleavages in Cross-National Perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

MARCH 17

- Nash, K. (2010). Chapter 3: Social Movements – 3.1. Resource Mobilization Theory; 3.2. New Social Movements Theory; 3.4. Global Social Movements. In *Contemporary Political Sociology: Globalization, Politics and Power*
- Mooers, C. and Sears, L. (1992). The ‘New Social Movements’ and the Withering away of State Theory.

MARCH 24

- Brym, R., Birdsell Bauer, L. and McIvor, M. (2013). Is Industrial Unrest Reviving in Canada? Strike Duration in the Early Twenty-First Century. *Canadian Review of Sociology* 50 (2): 227-238.
- Staggenborg, S. (2012). The Women’s Movement. In *Social Movements 2nd Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press

MARCH 31

- Bantjes, R. (2007). Beyond Nation-State Sovereignty: Indigenous Peoples’ Internationalism. In *Social Movements in a Global Context: Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.
- McNally, D. (2011). Towards a Great Resistance? In *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of crisis and Resistance*. Oakland, CA: PM Press.

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