Course Syllabus

Fundamentals of Political Sociology
SOC260H1S

Department of Sociology
University of Toronto

Winter (January-April), 2015

Instructor: Bader Araj, Ph.D.

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Class Time: Mondays 3:00pm-5:00pm.

Class Location: WI1016

Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm, or by appointment.

Location Office Hours: 725 Spadina Avenue, Room 389

Prerequisites

The perquisites to take this course are SOC101Y1, or SOC102H1, or SOC 103H1. Students without these prerequisites will be removed.

Course Description

This course introduces students to the social circumstances of politics and key topics in political sociology such as state formation, citizen participation in politics, social movements, political parties, electoral alignments and voting, the welfare state, as well as important and relevant political-social phenomena such as suicide terrorism.

Political Sociology studies the relationship between society and politics, and can be seen as the intersection of political science and sociology. It is that branch of sociology which is concerned with the nature and distribution of power in a society.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students are expected to have achieved an understanding of the following:

- major theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of political sociology
how to use sociological theories and empirical research to analyze socio-political phenomena
the relationship between social movements, political parties, and voting and social change
how do key social variables (e.g., social class) affect voting patterns
the relationship between globalization and the nation state
major theoretical perspectives and debates in the study of social movements
causes and effects of welfare state
the definition, origin, and causes of suicide terrorism

**Required Texts**

**A. Books**


**B. Journal Articles**


Note: Journal articles assigned for this course are available online through the University of Toronto library system. If you do not know how to access online journal articles, contact the library at 416-978-8450.

**C. Book Chapters**


**Recommended Texts**


McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald, eds. 1996. *Comparative Perspective on Social Movements*. New York: Cambridge University Bridge


Course Requirements

- A first test .........................................................(35 % of the total grade). A first test on Monday February 9, 2015.

- A second test .......................................................... (40 % of the total grade). A midterm test on Monday March 16, 2015.

- A Final Exam: Attendance and Participation...........................(25% of the total grade). A final exam in the Final Examination period (April 8th to April 30th, 2015).

IMPORTANT:

- The questions of the two tests and the final exam will come directly from assigned readings and lecture/discussion in class.

- Students are responsible for all material presented in class (see Course Policies for more details).

- The last day of classes is Thursday, April 2, 2015.

- Last Day to Drop Courses. Note that 8 March, 2015 (Sunday) is the last day to drop courses with S section codes from academic record and GPA. After this deadline a mark is recorded for each course, whether course work is completed or not.

Course Outline and Readings


Required Reading:


**Recommended Resources**


**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Resources**


- **3rd CLASS, Monday January 19: Citizen Participation in Politics**

**Required Reading**


Recommended Resources


- **4th CLASS, Monday January 26:** Definition and Origin of Social Movements, as well as Social Movements and Social Change.

Required Reading


Recommended Resources

McAdam, Doug, John D. McCarthy, and Mayer N. Zald, eds. 1996. Comparative Perspective on Social Movements. New York: Cambridge University Bridge.


- **5th Class, Monday February 2:** Theories of Social Movements

Required Reading


Recommended Resources


- **6th Class, Monday February 9:** A first test (40% of the total grade).

- **Monday February 16:** Family day; University Closed.
• **7th Class, Monday February 23: Political Parties, Political Partisanship, and Voting**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Resources**


• **8th Class, Monday March 2: Political Parties, Political Partisanship, and Voting.**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Resources**


• **9th Class, Monday March 9: The Definition, Origin, and Causes of Suicide Terrorism**

**Required Reading**

Araj, Bader. 2008. “Harsh State Repression as a Cause of Suicide Bombing: The Case of the


**Recommended Resources**


- **10th Class, Monday March 16: A second test (35% of the total grade).**
- **11th Class, Monday March 23: Citizenship and Causes and Effects of Welfare States**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Resources**


- **12th Class, Monday March 30: Causes and Effects of Welfare States**

**Required Reading**


**Recommended Resources**


**Course Policies**

- **Attendance and Participation.** Attendance is required. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining from their classmates notes on all material covered, as well as information regarding any administrative announcements that may have been made. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

- **Course Website:** The course website prepared on the Blackboard system is available at portal.utoronto.ca. The site will contain the course syllabus, all handouts, links of interest, and course announcements. Students are responsible for the content of all course materials. Discussion boards have been enabled on the course web site. All students are expected to behave respectfully towards their classmates and towards the professor and T.A.s.

- **Email.** When emailing your instructor or TAs, you must use your utoronto.ca address, as this is the only address we can be sure is yours. Please also be sure to include “SOC260H1S” in the subject line. All students are responsible for checking their official utoronto.ca email addresses regularly, including the evening before class. While the instructor and TA's do their best to be available for students, a prompt reply cannot be guaranteed if your email comes within 24 hours of a test, assignment, or exam, or if your email is submitted over the weekend. If you have a question or need to meet with the instructor, please give reasonable time for them to respond.

- **Make-up Tests:** Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero; UNLESS
within five days of the missed test, students who wish to write the make-up test give the instructor a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or college registrar. A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student’s telephone number and email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test. Instead, the grade assigned for the missed test will be the same as the grade the student earns for the other test in this course.

• **Assignment Submission.** Assignments are due online through turnitin.com by 11.59pm the specified due date. Assignments submitted after this time and date and/or not submitted through turnitin.com will be considered late. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

• **Late/missed Assignments.** Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points per day (including weekends and holidays). Students may, at the discretion of the instructor, have a late assignment excused with proper documentation. To qualify for an excused lateness, you must submit an original University of Toronto Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form completed by a doctor who treated you on or before the day the assignment is due. The Form is available on the University of Toronto’s web site and may be completed by a Health Services physician or by your own physician: [http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/) The form must be placed in a sealed envelope and be addressed to the instructor. No other medical certification will be accepted.

If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope and be addressed to the instructor. Documentation must be presented within one week of the missed assignment.

• **Final Examinations:** All final examinations are scheduled and run by the Office of the Faculty Registrar (OFR) in the Final Exam Period. No test may occur in the Final Exam Period that is not scheduled by the OFR. Students who miss a final exam must petition to the Faculty through their College Registrar's Office for an opportunity to write a deferred exam.
• **Term Work Due Dates.** Term work is due during term. The instructor may give informal extensions up to the end of the Final Exam Period, but not beyond. After that point, a student must petition for an extension through their College Registrar’s Office.

• **Use of Writing Centers.** *All* students are encouraged to use their available writing centres. Writing tutors help you to think through your ideas, develop a thesis, organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, and express yourself more clearly and concisely. Proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are *not* within the primary scope of the writing labs’ services.

• **Academic Integrity.** Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* ([http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm)). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

**In papers and assignments:**
- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work, having someone rewrite or add material to your work while “editing”.
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

**On tests and exams:**
- 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.

**Misrepresentation:**
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the Code. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website: http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/

- **Accessibility Accommodations.** The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/ as soon as possible.

- **Additional Information and Links.** All undergraduate students taking summer courses in the Faculty of Arts and Science are eligible to use any of the five college writing centres that remain open in the summer: Innis College, New College, University College, Victoria College and Woodsworth College Writing Centres. Students can find information about making writing centre appointments in the summer session at http://writing.utoronto.ca/news.

The teaching approach of the college writing centres is described at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/learning.

More than 60 advice files on all aspects of academic writing are available from www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice. Printable PDF versions are listed at www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links. For more information on “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources; these are listed in the section at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.

Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell. The non-credit August course ELL010H will take enrolment via ROSI starting in mid- to late July. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator, Leora Freedman, at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca