Political Sociology
2016-17 PhD Comprehensive Examination
Reading List

Department of Sociology
University of Toronto

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Political Sociology Section Members
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Required Readings
The reading list includes required readings and supplementary readings. Supplementary readings include references to works that will facilitate further study of a particular topic. Supplementary sections also include related work by faculty in the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Students must read all 184 required reading units plus 25 supplementary reading units selected from any two topics, for a total of 209 reading units. Although there are some exceptions, units are typically determined as follows:

- 1 large book > 100 pages = 5 reading units
- Small books and parts of larger books = 2-3 reading units, depending on number of pages assigned
- 1 journal article or book chapter = 1 reading unit

Sub Areas
The list is divided into seven large sub areas:

1. Power and the Political [22 units]
2. State Formation and Nationalism [31 units]
3. Social Cleavages, Parties and Voting [29 units]
4. Comparative Political Economy and the Welfare State [28 units]
5. Civil Society, Democracy and Citizenship [23 units]
6. Social Movements [28 units]
7. Globalization [23 units]
1. POWER AND THE POLITICAL

This section focuses on the primary concepts used in the field of political sociology. The readings are designed to encourage students to explore different ways of understanding the political realm and the meanings of power.

Required Readings (22 units)


Volume 1:
- “Types of Social Action” (pp. 24-26)
- “Social Categories of Economic Action” (pp. 63-75)

Volume 2:
- “Domination and Legitimacy” (pp. 941-953)
- “Bureaucracy” (pp. 956-1002)
- “Charisma and its Transformations” (pp. 1111-1155)

Supplementary Readings


### 2. STATE FORMATION AND NATIONALISM

This section deals with how states are developed and maintained. Related to this discussion is the promotion of national identity.

**Required** Readings (31 units)


Supplementary Readings


3. SOCIAL CLEAVAGES, PARTIES AND VOTING

Political parties were once thought to reflect the class composition of society, and individual party preference was thought to be determined largely by class position. In recent decades, however, the class bases of parties and voting patterns have been called into question. More emphasis has been placed on changing values as determinants of party choice and on the role that parties themselves play in shaping political life.

Required Readings (21 units)


Michels, Robert. 1959. Political Parties: Political Parties; a Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Modern Democracy. New York: Dover. (Parts 1, 4 and 6) (2)


Supplementary Readings


### 4. COMPARATIVE POLITICAL ECONOMY

**Required Readings (28 units)**

**a) Origin and Theories of Welfare States – (5)**


Karl Polanyi. The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, chapters 6 and 11. (2)


**b) Characterizing and conceptualizing welfare states in the West – (8)**


c) Characterizing and conceptualizing non-Western welfare states – (4)


d) Welfare State Responses to the End of Golden Age – (5)


e) The New Institutionalism and Varieties of Capitalism – (6)


Supplementary Readings


5. CIVIL SOCIETY, DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP

Required Reading (23 units)

a) Civil society and Democracy


b) Citizenship


Okin, Susan Moller (ed). 1999. *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* [Chapters by Okin, Kymlika, Honig, al-Hibri, Tamir, Parekh, Sassen and Okin’s reply] (3)


Supplementary Readings


6. SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Much recent controversy in the study of social movements centres on (1) the relationships among structure, culture and agency and (2) the causal weight that should be accorded each domain in the mobilization of social movements, the crystallization of social movement strategy and the level of success of social movements.

Required Readings (28 units)


Castells, Manuel. 2015 [2012]. Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age, 2nd ed. Cambridge UK: Polity (5)


Supplementary readings:


Brym, Robert J. and Bader Araj “Suicide bombing as strategy and interaction: the case of the second intifada,” Social Forces (84, 4) pp. 1965-82


**7. GLOBALIZATION**

**Required Readings** (23 units)

The readings in this module encourage investigation into how social life, the state, the economy, and social dissent have changed in the globalization period (roughly dated from the late 1970s onwards). At the same time students investigate new features of this period (e.g., neoliberalism, transnational social movements), they are encouraged to simultaneously examine historical continuity, and be wary of tendencies to abandon analyses of traditional political actors like the state and social classes. Key concepts: neoliberalism, cosmopolitanism, risk society, transnational social movements/activist networks, global civil society, state and world economy


**Supplementary Reading**


