This course should be of interest to all graduate students in Sociology. As a core course in the Department, in addition it will help those who plan to take the Ph.D. comprehensive exam in Political Sociology. As we survey some of the principal sub-areas of political sociology, we will pay special attention to disciplinary controversies, intellectual trajectories, and major contributions. Political sociology overlaps with political science, but political scientists tend to focus on institutions that are more official, entrenched, or legitimate (e.g., parties, constitutions, parliaments, electoral systems, judicial systems, armed forces, public administration, and interest groups). Putting things a bit too simply, political sociologists tend to examine the social determinants and social outcomes of political and quasi-political processes such as policymaking, class struggle, state formation, social inequality, and movement mobilization.

**REQUIREMENTS**
The success of this seminar -- both individually and collectively -- will depend on careful reading, thoughtful writing, and active participation.

1. **Ten position papers**
Position papers are not supposed to summarize the week's readings. Instead, in 1½ to 2 typed, single-spaced pages, a position paper should make an argument. In a concise and creative fashion, a position paper should point out the essentials; draw connections with other issues, texts, or theoretical approaches; or raise questions for the seminar discussion. Position papers will be returned with comments from the instructor but will not be individually graded. They are due at the beginning of the class that deals with the corresponding reading. Neither email submissions nor late position papers will be accepted, so assignments for other courses should be taken into account when planning work for this seminar. Make two copies of each position paper, one to submit and the other to refer to during the seminar. Be prepared to present the main points of your position paper in the seminar discussion. Here are further guidelines for position papers:

- avoid summarizing: assume your audience is familiar with the work in question
- cut to the chase: state your main argument by the end of the first paragraph (also, consider stating your main question at the very beginning)
- strive for originality, even in a small way: avoid repeating arguments made by others
- seek to compare -- or to adjudicate between -- thinkers, theories, or arguments
- try to introduce a theme not emphasized or made explicit by the thinker(s) in question but potentially worth pursuing in the context of a given problem (e.g., class, gender, inequality, hegemony, historical development, state efficacy, international relations, policy implications, differences between “is” and “ought” arguments…)
- engage: provide evidence of close scrutiny of the assigned text
2. Two 15-minute presentations
Each presenter will launch the discussion on two dates. A sign-up sheet will be distributed at our first meeting. In terms of content, little or no extra preparation will be needed: a presentation will draw on the presenter’s position paper for that week.

3. Seminar paper
The final requirement is a paper (length approximately 20 pages not including references, 12-point font, double-spaced, topic cleared first with the instructor). A hard copy is due in my mailbox by 5:00 p.m. on December 19, 2019. E-mail submissions or late papers not accepted (except where there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student’s control).

EVALUATION
The following will result in a final grade of A- for this course
- submitting all 10 of the required position papers
- and giving the two scheduled presentations
- and submitting a competent term paper

The following will result in a final grade below A-
- not submitting all 10 of the required position papers
- or not giving the two scheduled presentations
- or submitting a less than competent term paper

The following will raise a final grade to A or A+
- submitting all 10 of the required position papers
- and giving the two scheduled presentations
- and submitting: an excellent term paper → final grade of A
- a publishable term paper → final grade of A+

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS
If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility as soon as possible.

ACADEMIC CODE
Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly. It is also an offence “to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.” Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties.
WEEKLY TOPICS AND READINGS

Readings are available online unless marked with an asterisk (*). Approach each week’s readings chronologically, so proceeding from the earliest to the most recent text.

September 10: Introduction
No readings this week.

September 17: Community and politics I

September 24: Community and politics II


October 1: The weight of class I

October 8: The weight of class II


October 22: **Power and authority I**
- “Politics as a Vocation” (pp. 77-156)
- “Class, Status, Party” (pp. 180-195)
- “Bureaucracy” (pp. 196-252)
- “The Meaning of Discipline” (pp. 253-264)
- “National Character and the Junkers” (pp. 386-395)

October 29: **Power and authority II**

November 5: **Power and authority III**


November 12: **The welfare state**


**November 19: Social movements I**


**November 26: Social movements II**


**December 3: Political parties**

