

Department of Sociology
University of Toronto
SOC6010H – Political Sociology I
Fall 2019 (Tuesdays from 4:10 to 6 p.m.)
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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

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 1969 [1835-40]. *Democracy in America* (New York: Harper).*

September 24: Community and politics II

Mora, G. Cristina. 2013. "Religion and the organizational context of immigrant civic engagement: Mexican Catholicism in the USA." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36(11): 1647-1665.

Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital." *Journal of Democracy* 6: 65-78.

Rotolo, Thomas and John Wilson. 2004. "What Happened to the Long Civic Generation? Explaining Cohort Differences in Voluntarism." *Social Forces* 82: 1091-1121.

Skocpol, Theda. 1997. "The Tocqueville Problem." *Social Science History* 21(4): 455-79.

October 1: The weight of class I

Marx, Karl. 1991 [1852]. *The 18th Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* (New York: International Publishers).*

October 8: The weight of class II

Brooks, Clem and Jeff Manza. 1994. "Do Changing Values Explain the New Politics? A Critical Assessment of the Postmaterialist Thesis." *Sociological Quarterly* 35: 541-70.

Inglehart, Ronald and Jacques-René Rabier. 1986. "Political Realignment in Advanced Industrial Society: From Class-based Politics to Quality-of-life Politics." *Government and Opposition* 21: 456-79.

Lijphart, Arend. 1979. "Religion vs. Linguistic vs. Class Voting: The 'Crucial Experiment' of Comparing Belgium, Canada, South Africa, and Switzerland" *American Political Science Review* 73: 442-58.

Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction," in Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan, eds. *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-National Perspective*, pp. 1-64. New York: Free Press.

Pakulski, Jan and Malcolm Waters. 1996. "The Reshaping and Dissolution of Social Class in Advanced Society." *Theory and Society* 25(5): 667-91.

October 22: Power and authority I

Gerth, H.H. and Mills, C. Wright (eds.). 1946. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press).*

- “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

Poggi, Gianfranco. 1978. *The Development of the Modern State* (Stanford: Stanford University Press).*

November 5: Power and authority III

Gorski, Philip S. 1993. “The Protestant Ethic Revisited: Disciplinary Revolution and State Formation in Holland and Prussia.” *American Journal of Sociology* 99(2): 265-316.

Mann, Michael Mann. 1999. “The Dark Side of Democracy: The Modern Tradition of Ethnic and Political Cleansing.” *New Left Review* 235: 18-45.

Slater, Dan, and Nicholas Rush Smith. 2016. “The Power of Counterrevolution: Elitist Origins of Political Order in Postcolonial Asia and Africa.” *American Journal of Sociology* 121(5): 1472-1516.

Tarrow, Sidney. 2016. “War, States, and Contention: From Tilly to the War on Terror.” *Mobilization* 21(1): 1-22.

November 12: The welfare state

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1989. “The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State” *Canadian Review of Sociology* 26(1): 10-36.

Korpi, Walter. 2006. “Power resources and employer-centered approaches in explanations of welfare states and varieties of capitalism.” *World Politics* 58: 167-206.

Myles, John and Jill Quadagno. 2002. “Political Theories of the Welfare State.” *Social Service Review* (March): 4-57.

Swenson, Peter. 2004. “Varieties of capitalist interests: power, institutions, and the regulatory welfare state in the United States and Sweden.” *Studies in American Political Development* 18: 1-29.

November 19: Social movements I

David S. Meyer. 2004. "Protest and Political Opportunities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 30: 125-45.

Polletta, Francesca and James M. Jasper. 2001. "Collective Identity and Social Movements." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 283-305.

Snow, David A., E. Burke Rochford, Jr., Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. 1986. "Frame Alignment Processes, Micromobilization, and Movement Participation." *American Sociological Review* 51: 464-81.

Taylor, Verta. 1989. "Social Movement Continuity: The Women's Movement in Abeyance." *American Sociological Review* 54 (5): 761-75.

Optional: Tarrow, Sidney. "Comparison, Triangulation, and Embedding Research in History: A Methodological Self-Analysis." *Bulletin de Méthodologie Sociologique* 141 (2019): 7-29.

November 26: Social movements II

Diani, M. 2000. "Simmel to Rokkan and Beyond: Towards a Network Theory of (New) Social Movements." *European Journal of Social Theory* 3(4): 387-406.

McAdam, D. and R. Paulsen. 1993. "Specifying the Relationship between Social Ties and Activism." *American Journal of Sociology* 99(3): 640-67.

Pfaff, Steven, Michael Hechter, and Katie E. Corcoran. 2016. "The Problem of Solidarity in Insurgent Collective Action: The Nore Mutiny of 1797." *Social Science History* 40(2): 247-270.

Viterna, Jocelyn. 2006. "Pulled, Pushed, and Persuaded: Explaining Women's Mobilization into the Salvadoran Guerrilla Army." *American Journal of Sociology* 112: 1-45.

December 3: Political parties

Alford, Robert R., and Roger Friedland. 1974. "Nations, parties, and participation: a critique of political sociology." *Theory and Society* 1(3): 307-328.

Mudge, Stephanie L., and Anthony S. Chen. 2014. "Political parties and the sociological imagination: Past, present, and future directions." *Annual Review of Sociology* 40: 305-330.

Rydgren, Jens. 2007. "The sociology of the radical right." *Annual Review of Sociology* 33: 241-62.

Sartori, Giovanni. 1969. "From the sociology of politics to political sociology." *Government and Opposition* 4(2): 195-214.