

SOC6110H Political Sociology II: Events and Turbulent Times

Winter 2022

Professor Ron Levi

Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

Time: Tuesday, 10am-12pm

Location: 725 Spadina Avenue, Room 240

Course website: UofT Quercus

Office hours by appointment

Course Description

“It’s important,” Wagner-Pacifici (2017:86) argues, “to recognize the presence of violence in many events.” This advanced graduate seminar focuses on how events occur, how we identify them, and their collective effects – and with these, the relationship of events to violence, disruption, and enduring social change. Some of these may be revolutions and insurrection, disasters, incidents of terrorism, state violence, scandalous cases, and volatile moments of abrupt political change. We will read research that conceives of events, and research on changes over time in how events are defined, interpreted, witnessed, and memorialized. In studying events of this sort, we are confronted with the challenge of studying the exceptional rather than the usual, raising issues for how to relate the events we study with broader findings and themes, whether in political sociology, cultural sociology, collective memory, the sociology of law, crime, and violence, and other fields of inquiry (Abbott 2016; Ermakoff 2014). This seminar provides an opportunity to investigate the role of events, their effects, their recognition and their persistence, with readings and session topics that span across subfields, geographic contexts, and eras.

This is an advanced graduate-level seminar. We will be reading these materials collectively. Many of these events are of challenging and sometimes traumatic situations. All of us in the class are expected to engage deeply with the empirical and conceptual work in the course, with each other’s seminar presentations, and in seminar conversation.

Session Topics and Readings

-In progress-

Evaluation Components

COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	DATE DUE	WEIGHT
1. Class participation	Attendance and participation in class discussions throughout the course	Ongoing	25%
2. Presentation	Presentation of readings and assigned commentary	Ongoing	15%
3. Final paper	Final journal article-length research paper (~8000 words, with references) on a topic that draws on course materials and connects them with data.	13/04/2022	60%

Late Penalties

Students in the course will be asked and encouraged to explore and refine their own research interests in relation to course materials. Achieving this goal requires consistent work and effort throughout the term. As a result, students will not be able to postpone or “make up” class participation or presentation assignments -- if a student has a legitimate, documented reason beyond their own control for missing their presentation or response dates, only then will a student be offered a different opportunity to complete that portion of the grade (which may be a different date if one is available). Late papers will receive a 5%/day late penalty, inclusive of weekend days. Final papers submitted beyond the date above will likely not be graded in time for grade submission (which is just a few days later), which would likely lead to a delayed graduation date for students hoping to complete their program.

Academic Integrity Clause

Copying, plagiarizing, falsifying medical certificates, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be referred to the Dean’s office for adjudication. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties. Students are expected to cite sources in all written work and presentations. See this link for tips for how to use sources well: (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>).

According to Section B.I.1.(e) of the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters it is 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.”*

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the university’s rules regarding academic conduct, as outlined in the Calendar. You are expected to be familiar with the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/The-rules/code/the-code-of-behaviour-on-academic-matters>) and *Code of Student Conduct* (<http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/codeofstudentconduct.htm>) which spell out your rights, your duties and provide all the details on grading regulations and academic offences at the University of Toronto.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a 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.

Accessibility Services

It is the University of Toronto's goal to create a community that is inclusive of all persons and treats all members of the community in an equitable manner. In creating such a community, the University aims to foster a climate of understanding and mutual respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Please see the University of Toronto Governing Council “Statement of Commitment Regarding Persons with Disabilities” at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppnov012004.pdf>.

In working toward this goal, the University will strive to provide support for, and facilitate the accommodation of individuals with disabilities so that all may share the same level of access to opportunities, participate in the full range of activities that the University offers, and achieve their full

potential as members of the University community. We take seriously our obligation to make this course as welcoming and accessible as feasible for students with diverse needs. We also understand that disabilities can change over time and will do our best to accommodate you. Students seeking support must have an intake interview with a disability advisor to discuss their individual needs. In many instances it is easier to arrange certain accommodations with more advance notice, so we strongly encourage you to act as quickly as possible. To schedule a registration appointment with a disability advisor, please visit Accessibility Services at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>, call at 416-978-8060, or email at: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca. The office is located at 455 Spadina Avenue, 4th Floor, Suite 400. Additional student resources for distressed or emergency situations can be located at <http://distressedstudent.utoronto.ca>; Health & Wellness Centre, 416-978-8030, <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/hwc>, or Student Crisis Response, 416-946-7111.

Equity and Diversity Statement

Equity and Diversity

The University of Toronto is committed to equity and respect for diversity. All members of the learning environment in this course should strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect. As a course instructor, I will neither condone nor tolerate behaviour that undermines the dignity or self-esteem of any individual in this course and wish to be alerted to any attempt to create an intimidating or hostile environment. It is our collective responsibility to create a space that is inclusive and welcomes discussion. Discrimination, harassment and hate speech will not be tolerated. Additional information and reports on Equity and Diversity at the University of Toronto is available at <http://equity.hrandequity.utoronto.ca>.