

SOC 780/980 Seminar in Political Sociology

Spring 2010, University of Kansas

Thu 12:30-2:30 FRA 746

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Office Hours: Wed 2:00-4:00 and by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course to the major themes and debates in political sociology—a diverse field both in terms of the range of topics addressed and the theoretical perspectives used. Our main purpose will be to do an overview of the major perspectives and arguments comprising the field, including classical and contemporary readings. The issues studied in this field include the nature of power and the state, relations between state and society, social movements, political organization and civic participation, political culture, voting behavior, comparative political systems, warfare, democracy and economic development, citizenship, nationalism, revolutions, and globalization.

As a discipline, political sociology is at the intersection of sociology and political science: It addresses issues related to politics, in ways that political scientists often do. However, it differs from political science in a variety of ways. Political sociologists tend to emphasize the relationships between political institutions and other social institutions and society in general, rather than focusing on political institutions in their own right; political sociology tends to have a broader and also historical scope; And, political sociologists tend to adopt more narrative and comparative methods of analysis, rather than formal or mathematical ones. There is a lot of interdisciplinary reading involved in this area.

Course Structure and Requirements

This is a graduate seminar, which means its success depends heavily on your active participation. In each session, I'll give a short lecture that will serve as a map and general overview of the particular topic. Then, we will proceed with a relatively structured discussion, which will be guided by your reaction papers.

Reaction Papers

Each student is responsible of submitting a short, one- to two-page double-spaced reaction paper that critically engages the readings for a given week (total of 5 weeks). These short papers should not summarize the materials but instead discuss the strengths and weaknesses and discover ways to make theoretical and/or empirical connections. Ideally, you should include two or three critical questions about the readings. You may focus on one reading or attempt something more comparative. Occasionally, you might also wish to incorporate something from the supplementary readings list or something from outside the class entirely. I will grade these papers with a check minus, check and check plus format, and will take them into consideration for your final grade.

In addition, you will pick 3 weeks for which you will write a more elaborate four-to-five double-spaced reaction paper. For those three weeks, I also expect you to make a very brief presentation to the class about the readings (5-10 minutes), and take charge of the class discussion. These papers will be graded on a full scale.

Both short and longer papers are due every Wednesday **by 5 pm**, on Blackboard, the day before our class meeting, so that we all have sufficient time to read them.

Research Paper/Proposal

You will be expected to complete a term paper or a research proposal, approximately 15-20 double-spaced pages on a subject within political sociology. I encourage you to pick a topic that is of particular interest to you and related to current or future research plans, including an MA proposal/paper or a Ph.D. proposal or chapter. This paper will define a research question in political sociology, connect it to ideas and readings discussed in the class, thoroughly discuss how the issue has been treated in the existing literature beyond what was read in class, outline a research strategy, and include a discussion of potential data sources and methods. To guide you in developing a paper proposal, we will spend some time looking at how to develop research questions in political sociology. You must come speak to me about your potential topics and incorporation of this course work into your broader graduate portfolio by **February 19th**. You will need to turn in a two page proposal and a well-developed bibliography by **March 4th**, which will give me an opportunity to provide you with feedback on your ideas before the Spring Break. The paper should be roughly complete by our last class so that you can give a brief (10-15 minutes) presentation to the class on that day. The final paper is due (during the finals week).

Readings

You can find the list of required books for this class listed below. These books will be available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All other articles or book chapters will be posted as pdf files on Blackboard.

- Janoski, Thomas, Robert R. Alford, Alexander M. Hicks, Mildred A. Schwartz, eds. 2005. *The Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Civil Societies, and Globalization*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Handbook)
- Lukes, Steven. 2004. *Power : A Radical View*, 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Steinmetz, George. 1999. *State/culture : State-formation After the Cultural Turn*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.
- Foran, John. 2005. *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions*. Cambridge; Cambridge University Press.
- Migdal, Joel. 2001. *State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another*. Cambridge University Press.
- Mann, Michael. 2004. *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing*. Cambridge University Press.
- McAdam, Douglas. 1999 [1982]. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency 1930-1970*, 2nd Edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.

The following books are also available at the Bookstore, listed as optional but recommended:

- Calhoun, Craig. 1997. *Nationalism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Dahl, Robert, A. 1998. *On Democracy*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

Course Schedule (tentative)

January 14

Introduction to the Course

January 21-Power

Piven and Cloward, "Rule Making, Rule Breaking, and Power," ch. 1, pp. 33-42, in
Handbook

Lukes, Steven. 2004. *Power : A Radical View*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Gaventa, John. 1980. *Power and Powerlessness : Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, pp 3-44.

Other Suggested Readings:

Poggi, Gianfranco. 2001. *Forms of Power*. Malden: MA: Polity Press.

Scott, John. 1996. *Stratification and Power*. London: Polity Press.

Dyrberg, Torben Bech. 1997. *The Circular Structure of Power: Politics, Identity, Community*. London: Verso.

Gamson, Joshua. 1968. *Power and Discontent*. Homewood, IL: The Dorsey Press.

January 28-From Power to Domination, Authority and Theories of State

Hobbes versus Foucault

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, (author's introduction, and selected pages)

Foucault, Michel. 1990. "Lecture Two: 14 January 1976" in *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977*. New York: Pantheon Books, pp. 92-108.

Classics of Political Sociology

Max Weber, *Economy and Society*, pp. 53-54; 941-954; 212-30, 241-54

Marx, Karl. The Introduction and Conclusion of "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte" in *The Marx-Engels reader*, ed. Tucker, New York: Norton, pp594-617.

Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power, Volume I* (ch. 1 plus one other chapter)

Other Suggested Readings:

Habermas, Jürgen. *Legitimation Crisis* (Beacon, 1975), selections

Friedrich, Carl J (ed). 1953. *The Philosophy of Hegel*. Modern Library Edition. New York: Random Press.

Gramsci, Antonio. 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. London: New World Paperbacks.

Foucault, Michel. 1979. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Pantheon.

February 4-Rise of the Modern State

Ertman, Thomas, State Formation and State Building in Europe, *Handbook*, ch 18.

Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell. (Chs. 1, 2, and 3)

Mann, Michael. 1993. *The Sources of Social Power. Vol. II: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 3)

Other Suggested Readings:

- Gianfranco Poggi, *The Development of the Modern State* (Stanford University Press, 1978), pp. 1-15, 86-116
- Scott, James C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale.

February 11- Nationalism

- Calhoun, Crag. 1998. *Nationalism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota (Chs. 1, 2, and 4)
- Hobsbawm, Eric. 1990. *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (Ch. 3)
- Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities*. New York: Verso. (Chs. 1 and 3)
- Hobsbawm, Eric. 1983. "The Invention of Tradition" in *The Invention of Tradition*, edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Other Suggested Readings:

- Brubaker, Rogers. 1996. *Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. Cambridge University Press.
- Brubaker, Rogers. 2004. *Ethnicity without Groups*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Laitin, David D. 1998. *Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Wimmer, Andreas, Lars-Erik Cederman and Brian Min. "Ethnic politics and armed conflict. A configurational analysis of a new global dataset", in *American Sociological Review* 74(2):316-337, 2009.

February 18- State-Centric Approaches to Political Sociology

- Amenta, Edwin, *Institutionalist and State-Centric Theories of Political Sociology*, ch 4 in *Handbook*
- Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back in: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research" in *Bringing the State Back In*, ed. Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschmeyer, and Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press.
- Charles Tilly. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," pp. 169-191 in *Bringing the State Back In*, ed. Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschmeyer, and Theda Skocpol, Cambridge University Press.
- Orloff, A. S., and T. Skocpol. 1984. "Why not equal protection? Explaining the politics of public social welfare in Britain and the United States, 1880's-1920's", *American Sociological Review* 49:726-50.

Other Suggested Readings:

More TBA

February 25- Institutionalist and Neo-Institutionalist Analysis

- Elisabeth S. Clemens and James M. Cook. 1999. Politics and Institutionalism: Explaining Durability and Change. *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 25: 441-466
- James G. March and Johan P. Olsen, "The New Institutionalism: Organizational Factors in Political Life," *American Political Science Review* 78,3:734-749

- Vivek Chibber, "Bureaucratic Rationality and the Developmental State," *American Journal of Sociology* 107,4:951-89
- Theda Skocpol. 1992. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*, Harvard. (Introduction and Part III)
- James A. Mahoney, "Path Dependence in Historical Sociology," *Theory and Society* 29,4:507-48

Other Suggested Readings:
More TBA

March 4-State-Society Analysis

- Migdal, Joel. 2001. *State in Society: Studying How States and Societies Transform and Constitute One Another*. Cambridge University Press. (Selections)
- Meyer, Ohn W., John Boli, George M. Thomas, and Francisco O. Ramirez. 1997. "World Society and the Nation-State." *American Journal of Sociology* 103:144-181.
- Mitchell, Timothy. 1991. "The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics," *American Political Science Review* 85: 77-96.

Other Suggested Readings:
More TBA

March 11-Culture, Political Culture and State

- Steinmetz, George. 1999. *State/culture : State-formation After the Cultural Turn*, Selected Chapters
- Nina Eliasoph.1997. " 'Close to Home': The Work of Avoiding Politics." *Theory and Society* 26:5 (Oct., 1997), pp. 605-647.
- Jasper, "Culture, Knowledge, and Politics," ch. 5 in *Handbook*

Other Suggested Readings:

- Steinmetz, George. 2008. "Colonial Governance as Cultural Field." ASR
- Wedeen, Lisa. 1999. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Somers, Margaret. 1995. "What's Political or Cultural about Political Culture and the Public Sphere? Toward a Historical Sociology of Concept Formation." *Sociological Theory* 13: 113-44.
- More TBA

March 18-No Class-Spring Break!

March 25- Democracy and Civil Society

- DeTocqueville, Alexis. *Democracy in America*, (Short selections)
- Putnam, Robert D. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy* 6, 1(1995):65-78
- Moore, Barrington, Jr. 1996. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon. (Preface and Ch. 7)
- Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1963. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. New York: Anchor. (Ch. 2)

Dahl, Robert A. 1998. *On Democracy*. Yale University Press. (Selections)
Rueschemeyer, Dietrich, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (Ch 4)

Other Suggested Readings

Alford, Robert R. and Roger Friedland. 1985. *Powers of Theory: Capitalism, the State and Democracy*. Cambridge University Press.

Cohen, Jean and Andrew Arato. 1992. *Civil Society and Political Theory*. M.I.T. (Sections I, III).

Przeworski, Adam. 1985. *Capitalism and Social Democracy*, Cambridge University Press

Schattschneider, E. E. 1975. *The Semisovereign People : A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. Hinsdale, Ill.: Dryden Press.

Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Paxton, Pamela. "Social Capital and Democracy: An Interdependent Relationship," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 67, No. 2 (Apr., 2002), pp. 254-277.

April 1- Transitions to Democracy

Markoff, John. 2005. "Transitions to Democracy", *Handbook*, ch 19.

Kenneth Bollen, "Issues in the Comparative Measurement of Political Democracy," *American Sociological Review* 45 (1980): 370-90.

Huntington, Samuel. 1991. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*. (Selections)

Diamond, Larry. 2005. Lessons from Iraq. *Journal of Democracy*, 16(1), 9-23.

Thomas Carothers, 2002. "The End of the Transition Paradigm." *Journal of Democracy* 13:5-21

Other Suggested Readings:

Collier, Ruth Berins. 1999. *Paths Toward Democracy: The Working Class and Elites in Western Europe and South America*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Dankwart A. Rustow. 1970. "Transitions to Democracy: Toward a Dynamic Model." *Comparative Politics* 2: 337-363. [Reprinted in Lisa Anderson, ed., 1999, *Transitions to Democracy*, New York: Columbia University Press]

Guillermo O'Donnell and Phillippe C. Schmitter. 1986. *Transitions from Authoritarian Rule: Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

John Higley and Michael G. Burton. 1989. "The Elite Variable in Democratic Transitions and Breakdowns." *American Sociological Review* 54: 17-32.

Juan J. Linz and Stepan Alfred. 1996. *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation. Southern Europe, South America and Post-Communist Europe*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Barbara Geddes. 1999. "What Do We Know About Democratization After Twenty Years?" *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 115-44.

April 8- Social Movements and Contentious Politics

Jenkins and Form, "Social Movements and Social Change," ch. 16 in *Handbook*

Tilly, "Regimes and Contention," ch. 21 in *Handbook*

McAdam, Douglas. 1999 [1982]. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency 1930-1970*, 2nd Edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press.
(Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, and 3)

Voss, Kim. 1996. "The Collapse of a Social Movement: The Interplay of Mobilizing Structures, Framing, and Political Opportunities in the Knights of Labor", in *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, Doug McAdam, McCarthy and Zald eds, ch 10.

Other Suggested Readings:

McAdam, Doug, Sidney Tarrow, and Charles Tilly. 2001. *Dynamics of Contention*. Cambridge University Press.

Polletta, F. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs. 1, 2, and 3; Skim rest)

Loveman, Mara. "High-Risk Collective Action: Defending Human Rights in Chile, Uruguay, and Argentina," *American Journal of Sociology* 104, 2:477-525

Dingxin Zhao. 2001. *The Power of Tiananmen: State-Society Relations and the 1989 Beijing Student Movement*, Chicago.

Oberschall, Anthony. 1996. "Opportunities and Framing in the Eastern European Revolts of 1989" in *Comparative Perspectives on Social Movements*, Doug McAdam, McCarthy and Zald eds, ch 4.

Tarrow, Sidney. 1994. *Power in Movement: Social Movements, Collective Action, and Politics*. Cambridge.

Young. 2002. "Confessional Protest: The Religious Birth of US National Social Movements." *ASR*, 67: 660-688.

Tilly. 2002. "Comment on Young: Buried Gold," *ASR*, 67: 689-692

Young. 2002. "Reply to Tilly: Contention and Confession," *ASR*, 67: 693-95

April 15-Collective Upheavals and Revolutions

Goodwin, Jeffrey, "Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements." Ch 20 in *Handbook*

Foran, John. 2005. *Taking Power: On the Origins of Third World Revolutions*. Cambridge. (Selections)

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China*. Cambridge, (Introduction and Conclusion)

Goldstone, Jack A. 1991. *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Preface, Ch. 1)

Other Suggested Readings:

Goodwin, Jeff. 2001. *No Other Way Out: States and Revolutions, 1945-1991*. Cambridge.

Stinchcombe, Arthur. 1999. "Ending Revolutions and Building New Governments." *Annual Review of Political Science* 2: 49-73.

Eisenstadt, S. 1999. *Fundamentalism, Sectarianism, and Revolution: The Jacobin Dimension of Modernity*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

More TBA

April 22-Political Violence

Mann, Michael. 2004. *The Dark Side of Democracy: Explaining Ethnic Cleansing*. Cambridge University Press

Other Suggested Readings:

Charles Tilly, *The Politics of Collective Violence*, esp. chs. 1-3 and 10 (Cambridge, 2003)

Ruud Koopmans and Susan Olzak. 2004. "Discursive opportunities and the Evolution of Right-Wing Violence in Germany." *American Journal of Sociology* 110,1:198-230.

Thomas Cushman, "Is Genocide Preventable? Some Theoretical Considerations," *Journal of Genocide Research* 5:523-42

Naimark, Norman. *Fires of Hatred*.

More TBA

April 29-Globalization and Political Sociology

McMichael, Philip. Globalization. Ch 29 in *Handbook*

Huber, Evelyn and John D. Stephens. State Economic and Social Policy in Global Capitalism, Ch 30 in *Handbook*

Janoski, Thomas and Fengjuan Wang. The Politics of Immigration and National Integration. Ch 31 in *Handbook*

Evans, Peter. Counterhegemonic Globalization: Transnational Social Movements in the Contemporary Global Political Economy, Ch 32 in *Handbook*

Other Suggested Readings:

Sassen, Saskia. 1998. *Globalization and its Discontents. Essays on the New Mobility of People and Money*. New York: New Press.

More TBA

May 6-Presentations and Conclusion