

SC352 S07: Political Sociology

Tuesdays 3-5:20, Gasson Hall 302

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Course Description

This seminar will introduce the major themes and debates in political sociology. Political sociologists traditionally study the relationship between the state and other societal actors (i.e. interest groups, political parties, corporations, and social movements), how these relationships have developed historically, and how they vary across political-economic systems. The course is organized in three parts, two of which will be focused around the following fundamental questions that have occupied political sociologists:

- 1) *What is the relationship between the state and various other collective actors in different kinds of political systems?*
- 2) *How does the political-economic organization of social systems (subnational, national, international, and global) change over time?*

The first of these questions, which we will address in Part I of the course, lends itself to synchronic analyses of power across social actors and societies—like taking a snap-shot of the power dynamics in a particular constellation of participants at a particular point in time. Most of the readings in this section will focus on the US, in explicit or implicit comparison with other nation states. The second question, which will be our focus in Part III of the course, implies a more diachronic (developmental) analysis of power over time, be it within particular societies or in world-systemic transformations. In these two sections of the course, we will review central concepts in the field, such as power, legitimacy, the state, civil society, democracy, and revolution. In Part II (weeks 6-9), before shifting from the synchronic to the diachronic perspective, we will use Hurricane Katrina and the “War on Terror” as case studies to discuss the concepts and evaluate the theories we’ve learned in the first part of the course. In this context, we will discuss contentious issues such as the political power of corporations, religion and politics, neo-liberalism, military intervention, and the tension between security and civil/human rights.

Course Requirements

- 1) Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions. Attendance and my assessment of your level of engagement with the class will constitute a significant part of your grade. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class, let me know by email and I will mark it excused. If you have to miss class, please make sure to get notes from a fellow student and keep up with all readings and assignments.
- 2) One midterm exam. The mid-term will be a comprehensive exam encompassing everything covered in the lectures and readings from the beginning of the term through week 7. The exam will be mostly essay format, and you will receive a review sheet to study from at least a week in advance of the exam.

- 3) Group research project presentation. In groups of no more than 3 people, you will work together to research and analyze some aspect of one of our two “case studies”—the war on terror or hurricane Katrina—in terms of the range of themes and concepts covered during the semester.
- 4) Group project paper. As a part of your group project, each member will write a 5-7 page paper describing their contribution to the group’s effort and their own analysis of and thoughts about the group’s findings. The papers from each person in your group will be due in class one week after your group has done their in-class presentation.
- 5) Final exam. During the assigned final exam period, we will have a short exam, consisting of 1 or 2 essay questions covering the material from weeks 11-15.

Grading

Your final grade for the course will be derived according to the following weighting of individual requirements:

Participation/Attendance	10%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Group Project Presentation	20%
Group Project Paper	25%
Final Exam	20%

Course Format

I will generally do some “lecturing” at the beginning of class to help frame the topic, and try to save most of our time for group exercises, occasional videos, and discussion. Please note that lectures will go beyond what is covered in the reading, so if you have to miss a class, make sure to have someone you can rely on take notes for you. The readings and lecture will form the core of our discussions and will help you integrate, apply, and critique the various concepts and themes we cover. I will do my part to facilitate discussion, help you understand the key arguments being made in the readings, and challenge you to think intelligently and critically about the material. Since it is difficult (and quite boring) to have a class discussion about something only a few people have read, I expect you to come to class having completed the readings assigned for that day and prepared to discuss them.

Academic Integrity

It is each student’s responsibility to understand and adhere to the accepted norms of intellectual honesty in their academic work. Any form of cheating, plagiarism, dishonesty, or collusion in another’s dishonesty is a fundamental violation of these norms. To see the College’s policies in this area go to: <http://www.bc.edu/integrity>. Two other sources to consult about proper citation rules and exactly what constitutes a breach of policy are: “Plagiarism Examples and Guidelines: A Quiz” at http://www.bc.edu/schools/cas/polisci/integrity/quiz/#Example_four and the American Sociological Association’s “Quick Style Guide” at <http://www.asanet.org/page.wv?section=Sociology+Depts&name=Quick+Style+Guide>).

Policy on late assignments and missed exams. If you miss the midterm due to an emergency (i.e. something that is both *unavoidable and unforeseen*), make sure to contact me by email as soon as possible afterwards to arrange a make-up. Failure to contact me may result in your being dropped from the class. If you know about an unavoidable conflict ahead

of time, let me know *in advance*, and we can make other arrangements. To save time, when asking for an extension, please *suggest an alternative deadline that you can make*, but do not assume the extension has been granted until I have confirmed it. Where the absence is not approved ahead of time and it is not a legitimate emergency, missing the midterm will result in a grade of zero for that test. Final project papers will be graded down by 5 percentage points (1/2 of a letter grade) for each day they are late.

Readings

There are 4 required books for this course:

- Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View* (2nd ed.). New York: Palgrave.
- Barrows, Clyde W. 1993. *Critical Theories of the State: Marxist, Neo-Marxist, Post-Marxist*. Madison, WI: Univ. of Wisconsin Press.
- D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn. 2006. *Globalization: the Transformation of Social Worlds*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. (ISBN: 0-534-62433-2).
- Wilson, Richard Ashby (ed.) 2005. *Human Rights in the 'War on Terror'*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 0-521-61833-9).

Plus 1 book that is optional, but recommended (it's a good book to have, but it is also available on-line at <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/national/class/>):

- New York Times. 2005. *Class Matters*. New York: New York Times Books. [*Good book to have, but it's also available online at:]*

These books should be available at the Bookstore and on reserve at O'Niell Library. Please let me know if you have any problems getting them.

All other assigned readings are available through electronic reserves and can be downloaded and printed from any computer with an internet connection. From the library home page (<http://www.bc.edu/libraries/>), go to "resources," then to "course reserves catalog," log in, and look up the course.

Weekly Schedule and Readings

Week 1.

Tuesday, 1/16 **What is Political Sociology?**

Week 2.

Tuesday, 1/23 **Power**

Readings:

- Egan, Daniel, and Levon A. Chorbajian. 2005. From Section 1. "Critical Theories of Power" (Marx, Marcuse, Gramsci, Lipsitz, and Phillips) in *Power: A Critical Reader*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall. pp.1-24.
- Bachrach, Peter and Morton Baratz. 1962. "Two Faces of Power" *American Political Science Review* 56(4):947-952.
- Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View* (2nd ed.). New York: Palgrave. Chapter 1, pp.14-58; pp.88-107; and 124-151.

Part I. Synchronic Analyses of Power and Politics

Week 3.

Tuesday, 1/30 Class and Capitalism: Classical Views and Current Definitions

Readings :

- John Gurley, *Challengers to Capitalism*. New York: Norton, 1980. Chapter 2, "The Triumph of Capitalism," pp.7-29.
- Wolf, Eric R. 1982. "Modes of Production," in *Europe and the People Without History*, pp. 73-79.
- Giddens, Anthony and David Held, eds. from Chapter 1, "Classical Views" in *Classes, Power, and Conflict: Classical and Contemporary Debates*. Berkeley: U. of California Press. "Introduction," pp. 3-11; from Marx: pp. 12-35; from Weber: pp. 60-73.
- Gilbert, Dennis and Joseph A. Kahl. 1993. *The American Class Structure: A New Synthesis*. 4th ed. (newer one?) Chapter 11, "The American Class Structure: A Synthesis," pp.305-321.

Week 4.

Tuesday, 2/6 Class and Class/Race Interactions in the US Today

Readings :

- Correspondents of the New York Times. *Class Matters*. New York: Times Books. Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-50), 12 (pp. 182-191), and 14 (pp. 202-233)
- Leondar-Wright, Betsy. 2005. *Class Matters: Cross-Class Alliance Building for Middle-Class Activists*. Gabriola Island, BC: New Society Publishers. (ISBN:0-86571-523-8) From Chapter 1: "Working Definitions" and "Reality Check: Who Has How Much Money?" pp.1-4 and "Are There Class Cultures?" pp.16-25; from Chapter 2: "Identity Politics, Race, and Class" and "African-American Class Dynamics" pp.26-42.

Week 5.

Tuesday, 2/13 State vs. Class: Who Rules?

Hand out Take-home Midterm

Readings:

- Clyde W. Barrow, 1993. *Critical Theories of the State: Marxist, Neo-Marxist, Post-Marxist*. Madison, WI: Univ. of Wisconsin Press. Chapter 1, "Plain Marxism: The Instrumentalist Approach" pp. 13-50; Chapter 2, "Neo-Marxism: The Structuralist Approach" pp. 51-76; and Chapter 5, "Post-Marxism II: The Organizational Realist Approach" pp. 125-145.
- Block, Fred. 1987 [1977]. "The Ruling Class Does Not Rule" in Thomas Ferguson and Joel Rogers, eds. *The Political Economy*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe. pp.32-46.

Monday, 2/19 Take-home Exams due in my box (McGuinn 426) by noon.

Week 6.

Tuesday, 2/20

Hurricane Katrina: What Happened?

Readings:

- Wikipedia entry on Hurricane Katrina
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurricane_Katrina.
- Prah, Pamela M. "Disaster Preparedness: Is the US ready for another major disaster?" *CQ Researcher* 15(41), November 18, 2005: 981-1004. Retrieved January 9, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online,
<http://library.cqpress.com.proxy.bc.edu/cqresearcher/getpdf.php?type=color&file=cqr20051118C.pdf>
- Katel, Peter. "Rebuilding New Orleans" *CQ Researcher* 16(5), February 3, 2006:97-120. Retrieved January 9, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online,
<http://library.cqpress.com.proxy.bc.edu/cqresearcher/getpdf.php?type=color&file=cqr20060203C.pdf>
- Sustainable Energy & Economy Network website on environmental damage caused by Katrina (and before) <http://www.seen.org/pages/Katrina/pollution.shtml>

Week 7.

Tuesday, 2/27

The Politics of Katrina: Questions of Policy, Competence, Responsibility, Racism, and the Role of the Media

Readings:

- Will Bunch, "Why the Levee Broke." *Attytood*. Posted to altnet.org, Sept. 1, 2005, Retrieved on Jan. 9, 2007. <http://www.altnet.org/story/24871/>.
- Dowd, Maureen. "United States of Shame" *New York Times*. Sept. 3, 2005.
- Rich, Frank. "Falluja Floods the Superdome" *New York Times*. Sept. 4, 2005.
- Sabludowsky, Steve. "Katrina: President of Jefferson Parish and Meet the Press." Posted on Bayoubuzz.com on Sept. 4, 2005.
<http://www.google.com/search?q=cache:nci2Yqd7lv0J:www.bayoubuzz.com/printnews.aspx%3Faid%3D4911+Jefferson+Parish+President,+Aaron+Broussard+let+the+world+know&hl=en&lr=&strip=1>
- Krugman, Paul. "Killed by Contempt" *New York Times*. Sept. 5, 2005.
- West, Cornell. "Exiles from a city and from a nation" *The London Observer*. Sept. 11, 2005.
- Various articles from New York Post: <http://web.lexis-nexis.com.proxy.bc.edu/universe/printcite>
- Kelly, Jack. "I have no opinion about the job" Posted on irishpennants.com, Sept. 5, 2005. http://www.irishpennants.com/archives/2005/09/i_have_no_opini.php
- Dreier, Peter. 2006. "Katrina and Power in America" *Urban Affairs Review* 41(4):528-549.

For further reference:

- United States Congress (February 19, 2006). *A Failure of Initiative: Final Report of the Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina* (PDF), Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. Retrieved on 1/9/07. <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/katrinareport/fullreport.pdf>
- TV News Search engine at Vanderbilt. Look at CNN broadcasts on Katrina between August 26 and September 7th or so: <http://tvnews.vanderbilt.edu.proxy.bc.edu/tvn-search.pl>

March 5-9: No Classes: Spring Break!

Week 8.

Tuesday, 3/13

The War on Terror: Causes, Concepts, and Culprits

Readings:

- Anderson, Lisa. 2004. "Shock and Awe: Interpretations of the Events of September 11" *World Politics* 56(2):303-325.
- Haynes Writer, Jeanette. September, 2002. "Terrorism in Native America: Interrogating the Past, Examining the Present, and Constructing a Liberatory Future" *Anthropology & Education Quarterly* 33(3):317-330.
- Pape, Robert A. 2005. *Dying to Win*. New York: Random House. "Introduction" pp. 3-26
- Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. "The Economics and the Education of Suicide Bombers: Does Poverty Cause Terrorism?" *The New Republic*. June 24, 2002.

Week 9.

Tuesday, 3/20

The War on Terror: National Security vs Human/Civil Rights

Sign up for group project presentations in weeks 12-15.

Readings:

- Jost, K. (2003, October 24). Civil liberties debates. *CQ Researcher*, 13, 893-916. Retrieved January 9, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <http://library.cqpress.com.proxy.bc.edu/cqresearcher/getpdf.php?type=color&file=cqr20031024C.pdf>
- Hooks, Gregory and Clayton James Mosher. 2005. "Outrages against Personal Dignity: Rationalizing Abuse and Torture in the War on Terror" *Social Forces* 83(4):1627-1645.
- Goodman, Amy and David Goodman. 2006. *Static: Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back*. Hyperion Books. Chapter 1, "Outlaw Nation" pp. 17-45
- Wilson, Richard Ashby, ed. 2005. *Human Rights in the 'War on Terror'*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (ISBN: 0-521-61833-9). Fernando R. Tesón, "Liberal Security" pp. 57-77; Geoffrey Robertson, "Fair Trials for Terrorists?" pp.169-183; David Luban, "Eight Fallacies About Liberty and Security" pp. 242-257.

For further reference:

- Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights. 2003. "Assessing the New Normal: Liberty and Security for the Post-September 11 United States"
<http://www.humanrightsfirst.org/pubs/descriptions/Assessing/AssessingtheNewNormal.pdf>
- Doyle, Charles. April 15, 2002. "The USA PATRIOT Act: A Legal Analysis. Congressional Research Service. <http://www.fas.org/irp/crs/RL31377.pdf>

Part II. Diachronic Analyses of Power: Processes of Social and Political Change

Week 10.

Tuesday, 3/27 Democracy, Socialism, Totalitarianism

Proposals for Group Projects Due

Readings:

- Moore, Jr., Barrington. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press. pp.412-442.
- Orum, Anthony M. 2001. *Introduction to Political Sociology*. 4th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. "Basic Forms of Political Rule: Democratic, Totalitarian, and Authoritarian Regimes in the Modern World." pp. 91-111.
- Jost, K. (2006, February 24). "Presidential power." *CQ Researcher*, 16, 169-192. Retrieved January 9, 2007, from CQ Researcher Online, <http://library.cqpress.com.proxy.bc.edu/cqresearcher/getpdf.php?type=color&file=cqr20060224C.pdf>
- Ross, Michael. 2006. "Is Democracy Good for the Poor?" *American Journal of Political Science* 50(4):860-874.
- Norris, Pippa. 1997. "Choosing Electoral Systems: Proportional, Majoritarian and Mixed Systems" *International Political Science Review* 18(3):297-312.
- Gross, Bertram. 1980. *Friendly Fascism: the New Face of Power in America*. Boston: South End Press. Chapter 1, "The Rise and Fall of Classic Fascism," pp.11-31.
- Spiegel Staff. "Letter from Berlin: Neo-Nazi Violence on the Rise in Germany" *Spiegel Online International*. May 22, 2006. <http://www.spiegelde/international/0,1518,417492,00.html>

Week 11.

Tuesday, 4/3 Democracy, Oligarchy, and Civil Society: the (Diminishing?) Power of Voluntary Associations

Readings:

- Orum, Anthony M. 2001. *Introduction to Political Sociology*. 4th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall. Chapter 8, "Political Parties and Political Partisanship" pp.175-209.
- Putnam, Robert. 1994. "Bowling Alone." *Journal of Democracy* 6(1):65-78.
- Skocpol, Theda. 2004. "Voice and Inequality: The Transformation of American Civic Democracy" *Perspectives on Politics* 2(1):3-20.

- Craypo, Charles. 1997. "The Impact of Changing Corporate Strategies on Communities, Union, and Workers in the United States of America." *Journal of Law and Society* 24(1):10-25.
- Fung, Archon and Erik Olin Wright. 2003. *Deepening Democracy: Institutional Innovations in Empowered Participatory Governance*. Wright's "Preface: The Real Utopias Project" pp.vii-viii; Gianpaolo Baiocchi, "Participation, Activism, and Politics: The Porto Allegre Experiment" pp.45-76.

Week 12.

Tuesday, 4/10

Liberty vs. Equality: The Search for a "Third Way"

Group presentations

Readings:

- Manza, Jeff. 2000. "Political Sociological Models of the U.S. New Deal." *Annual Review of Sociology* 26:297-322.
- Quadagno, Jill. 2004. "Why the United States Has No National Health Insurance: Stakeholder Mobilization Against the Welfare State, 1945–1996" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 45 (Extra Issue):25–44.
- Korpi, Walter and Joakim Palme. 1998. "The Paradox of Redistribution and Strategies of Equality: Welfare State Institutions, Inequality, and Poverty in the Western Countries" *American Sociological Review* 63(5):661-687.
- Hart, H.L.A. 1973. "Rawls on Liberty and Its Priority" *The University of Chicago Law Review* 40 (3):534-555.
- Dworkin, Ronald. 2001. "Does Equality Matter?" in *The Global Third Way Debate*. Anthony Giddens, ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers. pp.172-177.
- Bakunin, Mikhail. 1867. "Federalism, Socialism, Anti-Theologism" Speech made to the League for Peace and Freedom in September 1867. PDF available online at: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/bakunin/works/various/reasons-of-state.htm>. Retrieved on Dec. 12, 2006.

Week 13.

Tuesday, 4/17

Globalization: Road to Salvation or Global Disaster?

Group Presentations

Readings:

- Stiglitz, Joseph E. 2002. *Globalization and its Discontents*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co. Chapter 1, "The Promise of Global Institutions" pp. 3-22.
- D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn. 2006. *Globalization: the Transformation of Social Worlds*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth. (ISBN: 0-534-62433-2). Chapter 2, "Dimensions of Globalization" pp.13-50; from Chapter 3, "Globalization: Wonder Land or Waste Land?" pp. 51-61; from Chapter 4, "The ABCs of the Global Economy" pp.82-92.
- Michel Chossudovsky, 1998. *The Globalization of Poverty and the New World Order*, Pincourt, Quebec: Global Research, Center for Research on Globalization.

(ISBN-13: 978-0973714708) Chapter 1, "The Globalization of Poverty, pp. 17-26; Chapter 2, "Policing Countries Through Loan Conditionalities," pp. 35-64.

Week 14.

Tuesday, 4/24 Globalization, cont'd.

Group Presentations

Readings:

- D. Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn. 2006. *Globalization: the Transformation of Social Worlds*. From Chapter 4, "The Sweat Behind the Shirt: The Labor History of a Gap Sweatshirt" pp.97; from Chapter 7, "Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy" pp.175-185; from Chapter 9, "The Globalization of Social Problems," pp.293-320.
- Macleod, SORCHA and Douglas Lewis. 2004. "Transnational Corporations: Power, Influence and Responsibility" *Global Social Policy* 4(1):77-98.
- Held, David. 2000. "Regulating Globalization? The Reinvention of Politics" *International Sociology* 15(2):394-408.

Week 15.

Tuesday, 5/1 The Global Justice Movement: Globalization from Below?

Group Presentations

Readings:

- Goodwin, Jeffrey, "Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements" in *Handbook of Political Sociology*. pp.404-422.
- article by Jon Foran?

Film: "This is What Democracy Looks Like"

Tuesday, 5/8 Group project papers from groups that presented on 5/1 due by 3pm in my box.

Friday, 5/11 Final Exam at 12:30pm.