

SOC 475/POLS 419: Political Sociology

Fall 2008

TTh 12:35-1:50 am, 0035 Pulliam Hall

Prof. Frederick Solt

Office: 3166 Faner Hall

Office Hours: TTh 9:30-11:30 am, 2:00-3:00 pm

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Overview

Political sociology sits at the intersection of political science and sociology: it is the study of the *social* bases of power and politics. This means that political sociology looks at the bigger picture of politics. If political scientists examine what states and nations and parties do, political sociologists are more likely to ask how and why these things developed in their current form—and what they tell us about power and its use.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following:

Paper I	15%
Paper II	15%
Take Home Exam	35%
Discussion Leadership	15%
Class Participation	20%

Papers: In the course of the semester, you will write two 5- to 7-page papers—not 4-and-a-half pages, not 8 pages—on the topics listed in the boxed text below. There are four paper topics; you may write on any two you choose. Papers must be submitted to turnitin.com before class on the last day we discuss the topic, that is, the date in bold in the bottom right corner of the box. The turnitin.com class ID is 2356870; I will tell you the password in class.

Take Home Exam: The final will be a take-home exam. The exam is open book: you may refer to any sources you like. You will have 48 hours to complete the exam before submitting it to turnitin.com. The turnitin.com class ID is 2356870; I will tell you the password in class.

Discussion Leadership: For four of our meetings, you will prepare a list of five questions about the assigned reading that you will offer your classmates to facilitate our discussion.

Class Participation: All of us need to participate to make our seminar a success. The quality of your contributions to our discussions over the course of the semester will be the basis for your class participation grade. And, of course, you can't participate—or learn!—if you don't show up, so missing class will count against your participation grade.

Readings

There are no required books for this class; all of the readings are available online at the links below or, if starred, from the course page on [Blackboard](#). You should print out the readings and bring them to class with you on the days they are assigned.

Class Schedule

1 Introduction

Aug 19

T: Introduction to the Course

2 Power

Aug 21–Sept 2

Th: The Three Dimensions of Power

Read: *Gaventa, John. 1980. *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Pages 3-29.

T: The One-Dimensional View

Read: *Dahl, Robert A. 1961. *Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Pages 63-84.

Th: The Second Dimension

Read: *Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America*. New York : Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. Pages 60-75.

T: The Third Dimension

Read: *Gaventa, John. 1980. *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Pages 165-201.

3 The State

Sept 4–18

Th: What is a State?

Read: Weber, Max. 1946 [1919]. "Politics as a Vocation," in H.H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills, trans. and ed., *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pages 77-128.

T: The State as Actor

Read: *Marx, Karl. 1978 [1852]. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Robert C. Tucker, ed. New York: W.W. Norton. Pages 594-617.

Th: Making States

Read: *Tilly, Charles. 1997 [1985]. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime," in *Roads from Past to Future*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. Pages 165-191.

T: Making States, cont.

Read: *Spruyt, Hendrick. 1994. *The Sovereign State and Its Competitors*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pages 153-180.

Th: Making States, cont.

Read: Centeno, Miguel Angel. 1997. "Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America," *American Journal of Sociology* 102(6):1565-1605.

<p>Paper Topic 1: Consider Tilly's and Spruyt's works in light of Centeno's article. Does the Latin American experience support or undercut Tilly's argument? What about Spruyt's? (9/18)</p>

4 The Nation

Sept 23–Oct 2

T: The Origins of Nationalism

Read: *Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities*. 2nd ed. London: Verso. Pages 1-9, 37-65.

Th: The Origins of Nationalism, cont.

Read: Tilly, Charles. 1994. “States and Nationalism in Europe 1492-1992,” *Theory and Society* 23(1):131-146.

T: Nationalism for War

Read: Posen, Barry R. 1993. “Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power,” *International Security* 18(2):80-124.

Th: War for Nationalism

Read: Gagnon, V.P., Jr. 1994-95. “Ethnic Nationalism and International Conflict: The Case of Serbia,” *International Security* 19(3):130-166.

<p>Paper Topic 2: Compare and contrast Posen’s argument with Gagnon’s. Are they compatible or contradictory? Which piece do you find most convincing? Why? (10/2)</p>
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5 Democracy

Oct 7–14

T: What is Democracy?

Read: *Schumpeter, Joseph A. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy*. London: Allen & Unwin. Pages 250-283.

Th: Modernization Theory

Read: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. “Some Social Requisites of Democracy: Economic Development and Political Legitimacy,” *American Political Science Review* 53(1):69-105.

T: Development and Democracy Revisited

Read: Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John D. Stephens. 1993. “The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 7(3):71-86.

6 Political Participation

Oct 16–23

Th: Participation and Resources

Read: Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, and Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. “Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation,” *American Political Science Review* 89(2):271-294.

T: Nonvoting as a Case Study

Read: *Schattschneider, E.E. 1960. *The Semisovereign People: A Realist’s View of Democracy in America*. New York : Holt, Rinehart, and Winston. Pages 95-111.

Th: Democratizing Democracy?

Read: Huber, Evelyne, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and John D. Stephens. 1997. “The Paradoxes of Contemporary Democracy: Formal, Participatory, and Social Dimensions,” *Comparative Politics* 29(3):323-342.

<p>Paper Topic 3: Mali is located in western Africa. It is one of the poorest countries in the world—the average income is about \$1,100—but it is nevertheless a democracy. In the presidential elections of 2007, just 37% of Mali’s adult citizens voted. How would Brady, Verba, and Schlozman explain this low rate of participation? How would Schattschneider? Huber, Rueschemeyer, and Stephens? Which explanation or explanations do you find most convincing?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(10/23)</p>

7 Political Parties

Oct 28–Nov 6

T: Parties in One Dimension

Read: *Downs, Anthony. 1957. *An Economic Theory of Democracy*. New York: Harper. Chapter 8.

Th: Parties and Social Groups

Read: *Lipset, Seymour Martin, and Stein Rokkan. 1990 [1967]. “Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments,” in Peter Mair, ed., *The West European Party System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pages 91-138.

T: U.S. Parties

Read: Hout, Michael, Clem Brooks, and Jeff Manza. 1995. “The Democratic Class Struggle in the United States, 1948-1992,” *American Sociological Review* 60(6):805-828.

Th: Political Sociology and the 2008 Election

T: Veterans' Day–No Class

8 Political Culture

Nov 13–27

Th: Authoritarianism

Read: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1959. "Democracy and Working-Class Authoritarianism," *American Sociological Review* 24(4):482-501.

T: Civic Community

Read: *Putnam, Robert D. 1993. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4.

Th: Post-Materialism

Read: Inglehart, Ronald, and Paul R. Abramson. 1994. "Economic Security and Value Change," *American Political Science Review* 88(2):336-354.

<p>Paper Topic 4: In light of the three-dimensional understanding of power, do these works on political culture adequately take power into account? Or does viewing power this way suggest additional insights on these topics? Be sure to evaluate each of the three assigned works. (11/27)</p>

9 Conclusions

Dec 2–4