SOC 315-131/POL 315-131: POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
Time: MAY 14-JUN 2, 2018 Summer PRE-SESSION
Online/Web-Based
Location: http://D2L.arizona.edu

Instructor: Yongjun Zhang
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Office Hours: By appointment only.
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Course Description

The goal of this course is to introduce students the core concepts (i.e., the state, voting and representations) and contributions of political sociology. We will cover a number of topics including: who votes and why, who controls (has power over) the state and its policy, how political systems operate, how political change occurs (or doesn't occur), how social movements challenge the state, and what are the foundations of democracy and other political systems. In addition to these broad topics at the societal level, we also draw attention to how politics influence our daily lives (e.g., social inequality and health disparity). Moreover, we also focus on sociological methods used to study political phenomena in the American society.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of SOC 315, students will be able to -
1) Understand the theoretical foundations and empirical contributions of political sociology.
2) Demonstrate critical thinking skills, complex reasoning, and written communication skills to answer and discuss questions about micro social phenomena.
3) Understand existing political systems and use sociological lenses and methods to analyze current political events.

Class Format and Expectations

This is a completely web-delivered class and all interactions will occur on D2L or via official UA email. Class will consist of recorded lectures, online discussion, and assigned readings. In order to do well in this course, it is imperative that you read ALL assigned materials each week. *If you have trouble accessing any course content or materials, please contact me via email immediately.* Do not wait until your grade suffers.

D2L Technology

You are required to learn how to use D2L and to check it regularly for maintenance schedules. Planned outages are NOT an excuse for turning in late work, or failing to complete an assignment, or online discussion.

Required Texts and Materials

1. All readings will be found on the D2L course page under the section titled "Content".
2. **Recommended** book (not required):
   John, G., and M. Anthony. 2009. *Political Sociology: Power and Participation in the Modern World.* Oxford University Press.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements

University policy regarding grades and grading systems is available at:

> http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system

Grade Distribution for this Course:

A: 90-100%
B: 80-89%
C: 70-79%
D: 60-69%
F: Under 60%

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete and http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal respectively.

Clarification of grade distributions:

Assignment	Due Time	Total Points
Review Article 1	**May 18, 10:00 pm**	30
Review Article 2	**May 25, 10:00 pm**	30
Review Article 3	**Jun. 2, 10:00 pm**	40
	Total	100

Review Articles are summaries and critiques of assigned readings in the course. Students should cover the main points of the readings and provide several critiques in **1-2** (no more than **2) single spaced pages** for all units in each part. Student are required to upload Review Articles on D2L under the section titled as "Assignment". These review articles **are DUE on D2L at the end of each week** (*see course schedule*).

NO FINAL PAPER.

***NOTE**: For the review articles, ASA or APA reference styles should be used. Cover pages or abstracts are not needed. **ALL** files submitted into the Assignment folder on D2L must be .pdf, .doc, or .docx. This is because those are the only accepted file types for turnitin.com to run an originality check. Incorrect file types will not be accepted or graded. Specifically, if students upload .pages or other file types into the Assignment folder, their assignments will not be opened, considered, or graded.

***NOTE**: There is no extra credit for this course, regardless of circumstances.

Detailed Course Schedule and Reading List

*****NOTE: ALL Materials are on D2L; Optional Readings are not required.**

Part I: Foundations, Power, and the State (May 14th-18th)

Week 1

Unit 1: What is Political Sociology

John, G., and M. Anthony. 2008. *Political sociology: power and participation in the modern world.* Oxford University Press. Ch.1 Introduction

*(Optional) ASA Political Sociology Section. 2008. Difference between Political Sociology and political Science

Unit 2: Power and Theories of the State—Pluralism

William Neumann. 2005. Power, State, and Society. Ch. 3. "Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology". Pp. 83-89

Unit 3: Managerial/Elite/State Based Theories

Neumann. "Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology". Ch.3 Pp. 89-118

Unit 4: Corporate Dominance Theories

Domhoff "The Class-Domination Theory of Power"

*****NOTE: Review Article Due—May 18th, 10:00 pm**

Part II: American Political System (May 21st-25th)

Week 2

Unit 5: Partisanship—Past and Present

Layman, G.C., Carsey, T.M. and Horowitz, J.M., 2006. Party polarization in American politics: Characteristics, causes, and consequences. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 9, pp.83-110.

Unit 6: Are American Divided? Red v. Blue?

Ansolabehere, S., Rodden, J. and Snyder, J.M., 2006. Purple America. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(2), pp.97-118.

Unit 7: Media Effects in the U.S. Politics

Kahn, Kim Fridkin, and Patrick J. Kenney. 2002. "The slant of the news: How editorial endorsements influence campaign coverage and citizens' views of candidates." *American Political Science Review* 96:381-394.

Unit 8: Executive Constraint

Thrower, Sharece. 2017. To Revoke or Not Revoke?: The Political Determinants of Executive Order Longevity. *American Journal of Political Science*, Pp. 1–15

*****NOTE: Review Article Due—May 25, 10:00 pm**

Part III: Political-Economy and the Welfare State (May 28th-Jun 2st)

Week 3

Unit 9: The Players

Esping-Anderson. "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State" pp.3-28

Unit 10: Threat, control, and politics

Brown, H.E., 2013. Race, legality, and the social policy consequences of anti-immigration mobilization. *American Sociological Review*, *78*(2), pp.290-314.

Unit 11: Roadblocks and Challenges to the Welfare State

Prasad, M., 2016. American Exceptionalism and the Welfare State: The Revisionist Literature. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 19, pp.187-203.

Unit 12. State and Society

Putnam, R.D., 1995. Bowling alone: America's declining social capital. *Journal of democracy*, 6(1), pp.65-78.
Here is the link: https://muse.jhu.edu/article/16643

Unit 13: The Eclipse of the State?

Peter Evans. 1997. The eclipse of the state? Reflections on stateness in an era of globalization. World politics, 50(01), pp.62-87.

Unit 14: *Social Movements: Occupy Wall Street*

Principles of Solidarity*:*
http://www.nycga.net/resources/documents/principles-of-solidarity/
Declaration of The Occupation of New York City*:*
http://www.nycga.net/resources/documents/declaration/
Everyone has the Right to Occupy Space, Safely*:*
http://occupywallst.org/article/everyone-has-right-occupy-space-safely/

Unit 15: *How Sociologists Understand the Past Presidential Election*

Judis. Why Trump Won - And Clinton Lost - And What It Could Mean for the Country and the Parties.
http://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/why-trump-won-and-clinton-lost-and-what-it-could-mean-for-the-country-and-the-parties
Skocpol and Judis: An Exchange on the Presidential Election Outcome.
http://thedemocraticstrategist.org/2016/11/skocpol-and-judis-an-exchange-on-the-presidential-election-outcome/

 ***NOTE: Review Article Due—Jun 2, 10:00 pm**

Late Work Policy
As a rule, work will not be accepted late except in case of documented emergency or illness. You may petition the professor in writing for an exception if you feel you have a compelling reason for turning work in late.

Absence and Class Participation Policy
The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences

Participating in online course discussion is vital to the learning process. As such, online discussion is required at all units. Students who miss online discussion due to illness or emergency are required to bring documentation from their healthcare provider or other relevant, professional third parties. Failure to submit third-party documentation will result in unexcused absences.

Online Class Behavior
To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. To that end, our focus is on the tasks at hand and not on extraneous activities (e.g., texting, chatting, reading a newspaper, making phone calls, web surfing, etc.).

Online Courses require special sensitivity. Students should be respectful to all other members of the class in online discussions. Comments can seem harsher online than they sound in person. Use care with communication.

The Arizona Board of Regents' Student Code of Conduct, ABOR Policy 5-308, prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to one's self. See: http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students.

Threatening Behavior Policy
Required language: The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students.

Notification of Objectionable Materials

Although course content may be deemed offensive by some students, such materials are deemed important for the learning process. Students are not excused from interacting with such materials, but they are certainly encouraged to express well-formed opinions that express those objections and their reasons for them.

Accessibility and Accommodations
Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit http://drc.arizona.edu.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

Student Code of Academic Integrity
Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See:
http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent.

Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating on an assignment, please contact me. The UA library also has a helpful plagiarism guide, found at:
http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagarism/index.html.

***NOTE: By submitting your work on D2L, you acknowledge that your papers will be uploaded and checked for plagiarism via Turnitin.

UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

Additional Resources for Students
UA Academic policies and procedures are available at http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at
http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance

Confidentiality of Student Records
 http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm

Subject to Change Statement
Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. You are responsible to check the course webpage in D2L regularly.

Additional Course Resources—Data Access
Here are several resources that might be useful to your future research.
Census Bureau: https://www.census.gov/
ICPSR: https://www.**icpsr**.umich.edu/
GSS: http://gss.norc.org/
You could also follow the link to use UofA library to get access to massive research databases:
http://www.library.arizona.edu/search/articles/dbBySubject.php

Web-Based Course Guidelines
These guidelines will help you navigate the unique challenges of web-based classes. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the basic functions of the D2L environment early in the course, so we can clear up confusion before important assignments are due.

- For course related questions or technical issues, students should 1) consult the syllabus, and 2) post the question to "Ask the Class" before emailing the instructor.
- I will use the D2L "News" section on the home page to post updates. Be sure to check the site regularly.
- All times listed on the syllabus or D2L refer to time in Tucson, Arizona (MST).
- No late work will be accepted for "internet problems." (Note: the only exception is for U of A network outages that affect the D2L online software. These are rare and are communicated by the campus to instructors.
- If you have trouble accessing any piece of course content on D2L, try the following steps in order:
  1) Close your browser, restart your computer and login to D2L again.

2) Open D2L with a different browser (e.g., Microsoft Explorer, Google Chrome). The problem is often the Firefox browser.
3) If you have access to another computer, try using it.
4) Post on the general discussion board to see if others are having the same problem.
5) Email me.
- If D2L is down, try the following steps in order:
  1) Make sure it not just your computer. Refresh the screen, logout and login again.
  2) Check the D2L main page when you first login to determine if there is a D2L outage at that moment.
  3) Post to "Ask the Class" to see if other students are encountering the same issue.
  4) If D2L is down, the issue will not be resolvable until the D2L outage clears. You can email me to let me know this happened. In your email, note the date and time you tried to access D2L.