

Political Sociology (Tutorials)

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Academic Year 2024/25 – Hilary

1 Course Objectives

1. Students should acquire an understanding of recent social and political science explanations of political processes and events.
2. Students should be able to relate this theoretical understanding to empirical data and analyses for more than two major industrial countries.
3. Students should acquire a grasp of the competing approaches in the field.
4. Students should gain an understanding of the main methods of data collection and analysis in political science and sociology.
5. Students should gain an appreciation of the roles of models and theories in social scientific knowledge.
6. Students should become familiar with major features of contemporary societies that are relevant to politics, especially in developed democracies.

2 Tutorial Syllabus

The list of topics for each tutorial week is provided below. Required readings and essay questions are available on the official reading list for this paper (see ‘220 Political Sociology 24-25.pdf’). Each week, please select one essay question from the relevant topic and submit your essay at least 24 hours prior to the tutorial.

Weekly Tutorial Topics in Hilary 2025

1. Political Culture and Social Capital
2. Class
3. Attitudes to Minorities, and the Populist Right
4. Gender; or Attitudes to Welfare
5. Nationalism
6. Social Attitudes and Value Change
7. Social Movements and Protest Participation
8. Media