

August 26, 2021

**SOC 320K  
POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

Fall 2021, TTH 5-6.15 pm.

Unique Number : 44795. Cross-listed as Gov355P, Unique Number: 38975.

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“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains.  
The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”  
William Arthur Ward

**Course Description:** This course surveys classical theories and major contemporary debates in political sociology. It is designed to provide students with a general understanding of the different theoretical perspectives on the study of power and politics. The empirical focus of the course includes the US and other countries and the approach is comparative-historical. We consider issues such as state building, nations, civil society, political parties, elites, social movements, protest, and democracy. We discuss recent developments both in the US and internationally. Students use major theories and concepts in Political Sociology to make analyze these events.

**Writing Flag:** This course carries the Writing flag. Writing flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work.

**Global Cultures Flag:** This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

**University of Texas Honor Code:** The student honor code reads: “As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity.” The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an “F” in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs>.

**Use of Class Materials:** The materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, exams, quizzes, and homework assignments are copyright protected works. Any unauthorized copying of the class materials is a violation of federal law and may result in disciplinary actions being taken against the

student. Additionally, the sharing of class materials without the specific, express approval of the instructor may be a violation of the University's Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty, which could result in further disciplinary action. This includes, among other things, uploading class materials to websites for the purpose of sharing those materials with other current or future students.

**Student Privacy:** The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student's performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

**Documented Disability Statement:** The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

**Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements:** Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the professor and TAs for this course are required to report for further investigation any information concerning incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking committed by or against a UT student or employee. Federal law and university policy also requires reporting incidents of sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct (collectively known as Title IX incidents). This means we cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with us. If you need to talk with someone who can maintain confidentiality, please contact University Health Services (512-471-4955 or 512-475-6877) or the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center (512-471-3515 or 512-471-2255). We strongly urge you make use of these services for any needed support and that you report any Title IX incidents to the [Title IX Office](#).

**Required Reading (to be discussed in class):**

Karl Marx, *Communist Manifesto*. On line at UT Library

Max Weber, *Forms of Authority*. One Line at UT library.

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, Excerpts.

Mounira M. Charrad, *States and Women's Rights*

Megan A. Carney, *Island of Hope*

Patu and Schrupp, *A Brief History of Feminism*

**Audiovisuals:**

Audiovisuals are an integral part of the course. Feel free to refer to them in your papers.

**Visits (virtual or in person) to the Gems of UT:**

Blanton Museum (session designed specifically for our seminar)

PCL Library (session designed for our seminar on how to do conduct research).

Harry Ransom Center (session designed specifically for our seminar)

**Requirements and Grading Policy:** Students are encouraged to take an active role in discussing readings and raising questions. I expect students to attend class and to complete the assigned readings prior to coming to class. This is a Writing Flag course that involves writing papers, revising them, and giving comments to your peers on their writing.

Course requirements include 1 position essay and 2 papers, 2 team presentation, participation in class discussions, and summaries of readings.

Paper no.1 is a brief essay (~300 words, one page). Paper no. 2 is a take home essay (900 words max.). Paper no. 3 is on a topic to be discussed with the instructor (1000-1200 words).

Papers no.2 and no.3 are evaluated in terms of quality of research, depth of thought, strength of argument, and clarity of expression (i.e., writing style). Paper no.3 will be done in stages; you will receive feedback on your First Draft. You are expected to implement the feedback in your final version. In papers nos. 2 and 3, use at least 2 quotes per page to illustrate your points. Include list of works cited at the end of your text. If you get less than A on Paper no.2, visit the Writing Center with a draft of your Paper No.3 before you make your final revisions and hand in the final version.

Papers are due electronically on the date indicated on the course schedule. Points will be taken out for lateness. Try and stay on schedule.

Presentations are done in teams. For the first presentation, each team selects a week's reading and develops a presentation by extending the reading, ideally with a discussion relating to current events. Students in a team agree to a common grade for the team as a whole. It is the responsibility of each team to collaborate effectively and share the work. The second presentation is also done in teams and details on its format will be provided verbally in class.

Summaries of readings and your opinion or answers to a question are to be submitted online on Canvas on the date due, which will be announced in due time in class and posted on Canvas. There will be a loss of points for late submission. Summary of readings should be about 250 words. When you do the summary of a reading, please include the main point you take away and your opinion on that reading. When a week's readings include several items, choose one particular item to summarize and assess, unless directed otherwise.

**Due dates for Assignments:**

Paper no. 1: Sept 2.

Paper no. 2: Oct 7.

Paper no. 3 (final version): Dec. 3.

**Grading Breakdown:**

Position Paper No. 1	5%
Paper No. 2	25%
First Draft of Paper No. 3	5%
Paper No. 3	25%
Team Presentations	10%
Class Participation	10%
Peer Review	5%
Summary of Readings	15%

**Grading System:** is based on + and -. Overall semester averages will earn the following letter grades:

93-100: A	90-92: A-	80-82: B-	63-66: D
87-89: B+	83-86: B	70-72: C-	60-62: D-
77-79: C+	73-76: C	67-69: D+	0-59: F

**Note:** Prominent scholars in the field and members of the Austin community engaged in relevant work will be invited as our guest lecturers. The dates for their visit to the seminar will be announced in the course of the semester depending on their availability. If any change is made to the syllabus, updated versions will be provided on Canvas in the course of the semester. Make sure to check.

**Additional Information:**

- **Please turn on your video so that we can foster a sense of community.** If you can't turn on your video, inform our TA before the beginning of class.
- You are encouraged to study together and do collaborative projects, but anything you write can only be your own.
- There will be no incomplete.
- Keep on your computer and a backup device until the end of the semester a file of every piece of writing you hand in.
- Attendance is mandatory. If you cannot come to class, please notify us. More than one unexcused absence will be reflected in the final grade.
- There are no extra credit provisions for this course.
- By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Guidelines for Team Presentation on Readings:**

1. Do a PowerPoint. Overall maximum duration of presentation: 20 minutes.
2. Slide no. 1: Main argument of the reading.
3. Slide no. 2: Select 2 quotes that you find interesting. It could be that the quotes illustrate the key argument, or that you find them especially apt, or that you disagree with them. Explain verbally why you chose these two quotes. Present an audiovisual to illustrate the reading or your reactions to it. This can be in the form of photos or a video. Please send the audiovisual to me and to our TA the day before your presentation.
4. Slide no. 3: A question that you wish to submit to the class for discussion.
5. Submit your presentation to me and to our TA the day before your in-class presentation by 7 pm the day before.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**Wk 1. Aug 26. INTRODUCTION**

**Wk 2 Aug 31, Sept 2. WHAT IS POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY; ORGANIZATION OF TEAMS**

**Essay (300 words) due Thursday: What do you want to learn in Political Sociology?  
How do you think the pandemic has affected the political landscape?**

Choose topics and organize the teams.

**Wk 3. Sept 7, 9. MODES OF PRODUCTION AND POLITICAL FORCES**

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*.

<http://www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/classics/manifesto.html>

Wk 4. Sept 14, 16. **FORMS OF AUTHORITY**  
Weber, “Forms of Authority”. On Canvas.

Wk 5. Sept 21, 23. **BASIS OF DEMOCRACY**  
Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*. Author’s Introduction, chs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8

Schedule for following weeks: TBA