SOCY 233.01: Political Sociology

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Class timings: Tuesday, 2.30-4.30 p.m.

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appointment

Course Description

This is an introductory course on major themes and debates in political sociology and covers a range of topics and theoretical perspectives. The primary purpose is to do an overview of major perspectives, issues and arguments comprising the field, including classical and contemporary readings. Some of the topics covered include nature of power and the state, social movements, revolutions, democracy, authoritarianism, citizenship, nationalism, gender and globalization. Among others, we will read Hobbes, Marx, Weber, Charles Tilly, and Foucault on modern forms of state and power; Hobsbawm, Benedict Anderson, and Arendt on nationalism and citizenship; Lipset, Dahl and Putnam on democracy; Catharine MacKinnon on gender and state; and Saskia Sassen and David Harvey on globalization.

Course Requirements

Reaction Papers: Each student will submit weekly 1-2 page double-spaced reaction papers a day prior to the class by 12 noon that critically engage the readings of the given week. Responses should focus on the strength and weaknesses of the works, pose critical questions for discussion, and draw theoretical and empirical connections with other works. (5% each; 60% total)

Final Research Paper: Each student will complete a term/research paper, approximately 15-20 double-spaced pages, on a subject within political sociology. (25%)

Class Attendance and Participation: Students will be graded on class attendance and participation. (15%)

Week 1: Introduction

No reading.
**Week 2: Power, Domination, Authority**


**Recommended:**


**Week 3: Classical Theories of the State**


**Recommended:**


**Week 4: Rise of the Modern State**


**Recommended:**


**Week 5: Nationalism**


Week 6: Cultural Approaches to Political Sociology


Recommended:


Week 7: Democracy and Civil Society


Recommended:


Week 8: Citizenship and Difference


Recommended:


Week 9: Authoritarianism and Transitions to Democracy

Recommended:


Week 10: Social Movements and Contentious Politics


Week 11: Revolutions and Collective Upheavals

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. States and Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China. Harvard University Press. Introduction & Conclusion.

Week 12: Gender and State


Week 13: Globalization