

Political Sociology

Course Description

An examination of social structure and politics: state creation and the growth of democracy, alignment and cleavage structure, ideology and values, party systems and voting, state and economy, political participation, legitimation and alienation, and protest and revolution. Case studies include: industrialism and working-class politics, the rise of Nazism in Germany, and party realignment in America.

Required Reading will come from the following books:

Anthony M. Orum & John G. Dale, Introduction to Political Sociology (Roxbury Pub Co; 5 edition, 2009, ISBN-13: 978-1933220741).

Russell Dalton, Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies, Fifth Edition (CQ Press, 2008). ISBN 978-0-87289-537-9

Jan-Erik Lane and Svante O. Ersson, Politics and Society in Western Europe, Fourth Edition (Sage, 1999). ISBN 0761958622

Lawrence LeDuc, Richard Niemi, and Pippa Norris, eds., Comparing Democracies 2 : New Challenges in the Study of Elections and Voting (Sage, 2002). ISBN 0761972234

Paul R. Abramson, John H. Aldrich, David W. Rohde, eds., Change and Continuity in the 2004 and 2006 Elections (CQ Press, 2007). ISBN 978-0-87289-415-0

Some additional articles and selections from books are required, as indicated in the weekly assignments. A coursepack will be available at the bookstore. Some further required articles and materials will be available on or through my teaching web site - <http://members.cox.net/fweil> - changes in assignments may also be made on the web site. The course lecture notes (not required) will also be available on my web site.

Course Requirements:

Attendance at lectures, two exams, and a final exam. You will be responsible for all readings, lecture information, and assigned materials on the course web site. You should also be familiar with the materials in the "Press Clippings," "Trend Charts," and "Polls" sections of the website. There will be several unannounced quizzes that may account for up to 10% of the grade. The course will consist partly of lectures and readings and partly of discussion. Students should always have read the assignments and come prepared for discussion.

Assignments

A PREVIEW EXAMPLE: The Case of Globalization

Read the news articles on globalization in the “Guide to Sociology 4421” on my website (links at <http://members.cox.net/fweil/s4421guide.html>). We’ll have a class discussion on what this means for the job market you’ll face when you graduate and for the current and future political landscape in America.

PART I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Week 1. **Marx and Class Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 2.

Week 2. **Weber and State Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 3.

Week 3. **Parsons, Functionalism, and Pluralism.**

Read Orum, ch. 4.

Background Reading for Weeks 1-3:

Orum, ch. 1; Lane and Ersson, Introduction and ch. 1; LeDuc, Introduction.

PART II: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND POLITICS

Week 4. **State Creation.**

- a. Centralized States
- b. Growth of Democracy

Read Orum, ch. 6, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Diamond. Also:

Charles Tilly. 1985. “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime.” Pages 169-91 in *Bringing the State Back In*. Ed. Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0 521 31313 9).

Linz, Juan J., and Alfred Stepan. 1996. “Toward Consolidated Democracies.” *Journal of Democracy* 7(2):14-33.

Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy* 2(2):12-34.

Week 5. **Alignment and Cleavage Structure.**

Read Dalton, ch. 8; Lane and Ersson, ch. 2.

Week 6. **Ideology and Values.**

Read Dalton, ch. 2, 5, 6; LeDuc, chapter by Dalton; Lane and Ersson, ch. 9.

Week 7. **Party Systems and Voting.**

Read Dalton, ch. 7, 9, 10; LeDuc, chapters by Blais/Massicotte, Mair, and Miller/Niemi; Orum, ch. 9; Lane and Ersson, ch. 3-5.

Week 8. **State and Economy.**

- a. Welfare State
- b. Capitalism and Democracy
- c. Neo-Corporatism

Read Lane and Ersson, ch. 6, 7, 11; Orum, ch. 7.

Week 9. **Political Participation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 3, 4; LeDuc, chapter by Franklin; Orum, ch. 13.

Week 10. **Legitimation and Alienation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 12. Also:

Frederick D. Weil. 1989. "The Sources and Structure of Legitimation in Western Democracies: A Consolidated Model Tested with Time-Series Data in Six Countries since World War II." *American Sociological Review* 54, 5:682-706.

Frederick D. Weil. 1994. "Political Culture, Political Structure and Democracy: The Case of Legitimation and Opposition Structure." *Research on Democracy and Society, Vol. 2, Political Culture and Political Structure: Theoretical and Empirical Studies.* JAI Press, Greenwich, CT (ISBN 1 55938 778 5).

Week 11. Protest and Revolution.

Read Orum, ch. 10; Lane and Ersson, ch. 10.

PART III: THREE CASE STUDIES**Week 12. Industrialism and Working-Class Politics.**

Read: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1983. "Radicalism or Reformism: The Sources of Working-Class Politics." American Political Science Review 77: 1-18. (Reprinted in Lipset, Consensus and Conflict, New Brunswick: Transaction, 1985, ISBN 0-88738-608-3). And:

Katznelson, Ira, "Working-Class Formation: Constructing Cases and Comparisons" (ch. 1) and Aristide R. Zolberg, "How Many Exceptionalisms?" (ch. 9) - both in Katznelson and Zolberg, eds, Working-Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1986 ISBN 0-69110-207-4).

Week 13. Nazism in Germany.

Read: M. Rainer Lepsius, "From fragmented party democracy to government by emergency decree and National Socialist takeover: Germany," ch. 2 in Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds., The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Europe (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins U. Press, 1978, ISBN 0-8018-2022-7).

Week 14. Party Realignment in America.

Read: Abramson, et al., Part 2: Voting Behavior.

Read the outline of party realignment on the course web site.

Recommended:

E. J. Dionne, Why Americans Hate Politics (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991), selections; Martin P. Wattenberg, The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1996 (Harvard U. Press, 1998) selections.