

**Sociology 182
Political Sociology
Spring 2000**

**M, W: 9-10:50 am
Hershey 1651**

**Lecturer: Manali Desai
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The State and Social Power

This course is a theoretical and empirical survey of some of the most influential perspectives on the state and social power (with a focus on the capitalist state). We will examine the writings of Marx and Weber, the classical foundations of state theory, and more recent writings on the state that have been influenced by them. We will also look at writings by Foucault on social power, moving on finally to discuss gender and race as two crucial axes of social power, and their intersection with the state. This course is designed for students who have a basic familiarity with political and/or social theory. It is not recommended for students in their first or second years.

Readings:

Two course readers are available at 20/20 Copies (10872 Weyburn Avenue, Phone: (310) 312-2448). They contain all the required readings for this course. The reader for the second half of the course will be available by week 4.

Course Requirements:

The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

5 page paper	25%	due on May 1
5 page paper	25%	due on May 24
5-7 page paper	40%	due on June 12*
discussion section	10%	

* This paper is due on the first day of finals week by 5pm (Monday) in the Sociology Department's main office, 2201 Hershey Hall

NB: There is no final exam for this course

For each of the papers students will be required to choose one from a given choice of questions. These questions will be provided two weeks before they are due. No late papers will be accepted unless you provide me or the teaching assistant with documentation of an illness or emergency. Your grade will be lowered in halves for each day the paper is late (e.g. from a B+ to a B, C to a C- and so on). Please keep back-up files of all your papers.

NB: Papers must adhere to the page limit. They must be typed, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins, and regular fonts (e.g. times roman or courier).

The instructors for this course are aware of papers that circulate on the internet and can easily distinguish between what is the student's own product and what is taken from other sources. In addition, familiarize yourself with the definition of plagiarism as it will not be tolerated in this course.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 (April 3 and 5)

Introduction to the State: Historical and Theoretical Perspectives

- M Introduction
- W Alford and Friedland, Powers of Theory, pps. 1-32.

Week 2 (April 10 and 12)

Karl Marx on the State and Classes: Foundations of a Materialist Theory

- M, W "Communist Manifesto," in Tucker, Robert, The Marx-Engels Reader.
- "The German Ideology," in Tucker, ed.

Week 3 (April 17 and 19)

Max Weber on the State and Bureaucracy

- M "Bureaucracy," in C.W. Mills and Hans Gerth, eds. Max Weber
- W "Domination and Legitimacy" in Economy and Society, Volume II. Selections on Order, in Social and Economic Organization, pps. 124-130 and 152-153.

Ist Paper topic handed out April 17

Week 4 (April 24 and 26)

Recent Neo-Marxist Theories of the State: Instrumentalist and Structuralist Perspectives on the Capitalist State

- M Poulantzas, "The Problem of the Capitalist State"

Miliband, "Reply to Nicos Poulantzas" in Ideology in the Social Sciences, ed. Robin Blackburn.

- W Domhoff, Who Rules America Now?, Pps. 29-64.
 Goldfield, "Worker Insurgency, Radical Organization and New Deal Legislation," APSR.

Week 5 (May 1 and 3)

Recent Weberian Theories of the State: The Issue of State Autonomy

- M Mann, "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms and Results," in States, War and Capitalism.
 W Skocpol, "Introduction" to Bringing the State Back In
 Skocpol, "Political Response to Capitalist Crisis: Neo-Marxist Theories of the State and the Case of the New Deal"

1st Paper due May 1 in class

Week 6 (May 8 and 10)

Marx and Weber on Social/Class Power

- M Marx, "On the Jewish Question"
 W Weber, "Class, Status, Party"
 Mann, "Societies as Organized Power Networks," in The Sources of Social Power, Vol. I.

2nd Paper Topic handed out on May 8

Week 7 (May 15 and 17)

- M, W Beetham, D. "The Limits of Bureaucratic Rationality," in Max Weber and the Theory of Modern Politics, pp. 63-94.
 Lukes, S. "Power and Authority," in Bottmore, and Nisbet eds., A History of Sociological Analysis.
 Lukes, S. "Power and Structure," in Essays in Social Theory.

Week 8 (May 22 and 24):

Beyond the State: Michel Foucault's Writings on Power

- M Foucault, "Docile Bodies," and "Panopticism," in Discipline and Punish
 W Jessop, "Poulantzas and Foucault on Power and Strategy," in State Theory

2nd Paper Due on May 24th in class and 3rd Paper Topic Handed Out

Week 9 (May 29 and 31) Gender and the State

May 29 - Memorial Day Holiday

W Orloff, "Gendering the Analysis of Welfare States," in Public Rights, Public Rules, ed. Connie Mc Neely
Other readings tba

Week 10 (June 5 and 7) Race and the State

M Brown, M. Chps 1, 2 and 10, in Race, Money, and the American Welfare State.
W readings tba

3rd Paper Due on June 10

NO FINAL