

Department of Sociology, UCLA
Sociology 182, Political Sociology
Course Guide, Fall Quarter 2001

Tuesday, Thursday 2-3:15pm, ~~4-5:00pm~~

146 Dodd Hall

Professor: Barbara Ballis Lal

Office: 289 Haines Hall. Telephone: (310)825-7989

e-mail: lal@ucla.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 4-5:00pm and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Gabriella Fried

Course Description

This course looks at how political agendas get set and how decisions which affect large numbers of people get made and how both of these processes are related to power, authority and the pattern of social institutions on the one hand, and social stability and social change on the other.

We begin by discussing major traditions in political sociology. We look at the perspectives of Karl Marx, Alexis de Tocqueville and Max Weber and go on to consider how their insights have been applied, extended and altered in the subsequent empirical studies of sociologists, political scientists and historians. For example, we will look at what Marx, de Tocqueville and Weber had to say about the conditions leading to or inhibiting social change in light of empirical studies of social revolution and their aftermath in Eastern Europe, China and Iran. In this part of the course, students will be asked to think about how theories and concepts get modified as a result of historical events, as well as scholarly debate and intellectual fashion.

In the second part of the course we will examine concepts which have become of particular importance to political sociologists recently. These are ideology and the political orientations organized around 'liberalism', 'collectivism' and 'fundamentalism', and social movements.

The final part of the course focuses upon the political sociology of the USA. We will consider how models and concepts dealt with earlier in the course are deployed by William Domhoff, Thomas Dye, and Robert Bellah, et al., to discuss political decision-making and democracy in America. We will also consider alternative diagnoses of the state of American society.

This course entails reading a lot of varied material, some of which is very abstract and densely argued. Students will be exposed to many different points of view about how the world works and what constitutes the good society. Each student is encouraged to think critically and to develop their own outlook on the issues discussed.

Responsibility for keeping up with the reading lies with the student. The lectures are based upon the reading but are not intended to provide a summary which substitutes for

careful attention to each reading assignment. A limited time will be allocated for questions and comments during the lecture. Clarification of the reading or points raised in lecture, questions and comments may be raised in section, and in office hours with Professor Lal and/or Gabriella Fried. Questions may be posted through e-mail but will be answered at the discretion of the TA and Professor Lal depending upon the volume of e-mail and the nature of the question. Students are encouraged to make full use of office hours.

Assignments

There will be two three page (maximum number of pages) take-home examinations. Each of these will be graded on a scale of 100 and your average on the two papers will constitute 30% of your final grade. There will be a ten page final term paper counting for 70% of your final grade. Students may have up to 3 points added to their course grade on the basis of participation in discussion sections at the discretion of the T.A.

On each take-home examination you will be asked to answer one questions from a list of four questions. These exams will be returned to you with comments. It is up to you to make arrangements to discuss your take-home examinations with the T.A. or with Professor Lal. Questions will be based upon required readings, lectures and discussions. The schedule for take-home examinations appears in the list of lectures below. You will be penalized for late papers.

The topics for the final ten page term paper will be distributed in class during the fifth week of term. The final term paper will be due on Monday, 10th. December, 2001, Noon, in Professor Lal's office, 289 Haines Hall. Students may hand in their term papers earlier if they wish to do this.

READING

All required reading is contained in the course reader. The course reader may be obtained from Course Reader Material, 1141 Westwood Blvd., (310) 443-3303. Two copies of the course reader will be available in the College Library.

Additional books available in the ASUCLA bookstore are Dye, Thomas (1995) Who's Running America? The Clinton Years (sixth ed.), Domhoff, William (1998) Who Rules America? Power and Politics in the Year 2000 (3rd. ed.) and Funderburk Charles and Thobaben (1994) Political Ideologies, Left, Center, Right (sec.ed.)

General texts in political sociology that students may find useful are Bottomore, Tom (1993) Political Sociology; Martin Marger (1987) Elites and Masses, and Roland Axtmann, (1996) Liberal Democracy, Globalization, Integration and the Nation State. Students who wish to further their general knowledge of sociological theory should consult Wallace, Ruth and Wolf, Allison (2000) Contemporary Sociological Theory.

Lecture Schedule

Part 1. Major Traditions in Political Sociology. An Introduction to Theorists and Concepts.

Tuesday, 25th. September

Discussion of the administrative aspects of the course.

What is political sociology? The key concepts of power, authority, influence and persuasion. Major traditions and 'competing paradigms'

Marger, M.(1987) Elites and Masses. Chapter 1. 'Introduction: What is Political Sociology?' pp.3-6; Chapter 2. 'Power in Societies' pp.7-27. Bottomore, T.(1993) Political Sociology. 'Introduction' pp.1-11.

N.B. There will be no class on Thursday, 27th. September.

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

The Class Model

Tuesday, 2nd. Oct., Thursday, 4th. Oct.,

Conclusion of discussion on major traditions in political sociology.

Marx's theory of historical materialism. Ideology, the State and Social Revolution.

What is 'historical materialism' and how is this process related to social revolution? The contribution of the state and ideology in maintaining social stability and fomenting social change. The state in capitalist and socialist society.

Reading

Marx, Karl and Engels, Frederick (1848) 'Manifesto of the Communist Party,' in Goldstone, J. pp.21-29.

Marger, Chapter 3. 'The Class Model' pp. 31-49.

Bottomore, T. 'Democracy and Social Classes', pp.12-27.

Tuesday, 9th. Oct. Thursday, 11th. Oct.

Marx revisited in the light of historical events. Empirical Studies.

Under what conditions have revolutions occurred? The rise and fall of socialism in Eastern Europe. How do Neo-Marxists and other contemporary theorists deal with the concept of the state in socialist and capitalist societies? Revolutions and unintended consequences.

Reading

Funderburk, Charles and Thobaben, Robert (1994) Political Ideologies, Left, Center, Right. 'Communism' pp. 41-73; 'Democratic Socialism' pp.81-97.

Skocpol, T. and Trimberger, E.K. 'Revolutions: A Structural Analysis' in Goldstone, pp.64-70.

Chiot, D. 'Eastern European Revolutions of 1989' in Goldstone, pp.165-180 .

Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)

The Pluralist Model

Tuesday, 16th. October, Thursday, 18th. October.

Revolution and 'relative deprivation'. The centralized state and civil society. Democracy in America. Individualism and pluralism- promise and reality.

Reading

Tocqueville, A. (1856) The Ancien Regime and the French Revolution, Part Two, Chapter One, 'Why feudalism had come to be more detested in France than in any other country' in course reader.

Tocqueville, A. 'The French Revolution and the Growth of the State' in Goldstone, pp.30-31.

Tocqueville, A. (1835) 'Introduction' Democracy In America, in course reader

Marger, M. Chapter 5. 'The Pluralist Model' pp. 51-66.

Nisbet, R. (1966) 'Authority ' in course reader.

Tuesday, 23rd. October.

Tocqueville revisited. How important is the subjective point of view of the actor in understanding social stability and social change? What is the relationship between civil society, pluralism and democracy? Under what conditions does civil society contribute to social revolution as opposed to social stability?

Reading

Whyte, Martin King 'The Social Sources of the Student Demonstrations in China, 1989' in Goldstone, pp.180-193.

Cohen, J. 'Does Voluntary Association Make Democracy Work?' in Smelser, N. and Alexander, J. eds.(2000) Diversity and Its Discontents pp.263-291

N.B. First take-home examination handed out in class. **Due: Tuesday, 30th. October.**

Max Weber (1864-1920)

The Elite Model

Thursday, 25th. October, Tuesday 30th. October

Bureaucracy and the State, Elites and Masses. What are the characteristics of bureaucratic administration? Legal-Rational Authority and the process of rationalization. What tensions exist between bureaucracy as a mode of administration and democracy as a mode of governance?

Reading

Weber, (1914) 'Bureaucracy and Revolution' in Goldstone, pp.31-36.

Michels, R. (1915) 'Bureaucracy and Political Parties' from Political Parties

Marger, M. Chapter 4. 'The Elite Model' pp. 141-163.

Beetham, David (1985) ' The Limits of Bureaucratic Rationality' Max Weber and the Theory of Modern Politics pp.63-94.

Thursday, 1st. November, Tuesday, 6th. November

Weber revisited. Empirical Studies. What are the sources of elite formation in capitalist and socialist societies and are these inevitable? How useful is the concept of 'McDonaldization' in the analysis of the USA today?

Marx, Tocqueville and Weber: Common Themes, Disagreements

Reading

Edeen, A. 'The Soviet Civil Service: Its Composition and Status' in Goldstone, pp.204-213.

Whyte, M. 'Inequality and Stratification in China' in Goldstone, pp.213-233.

Ritzler, G. (2000) 'An Introduction to McDonaldization' from The McDonaldization of Society, pp.1 -39.

Part 2. Ideology and Social Movements

Thursday, 8th. November and Tuesday, 13th. November

Ideology. What is ideology and how does it differ from both belief systems in general and 'expert' knowledge? How important is ideology in maintaining stability and in encouraging change?

Reading

Marger, Chapter 11 'Ideology and Political Socialization' pp. 201-226.

Garvey, 'Introduction: Fundamentalism and Politics' in Marty, Martin. and Appleby, Scott, eds. (1993) Fundamentalism and the State, pp.13- 27.

Axtmann, R. (1996) 'Citizenship and Civil Society: liberalism republicanism and deliberative politics' in Liberal Democracy Into the Twenty-first Century, pp. 36-79.

Skidelsky, R (1995) Chapter One 'We Will Bury You' Chapter Two 'The Nature of Collectivism' in The World After Communism, pp.1-44.

Optional. Marcuse, H. (1961) 'Introduction', 'New Forms of Control' in One-Dimensional Man, pp.ix-19.

Thursday, 15th. November. Social Movements

How are social movements related to 'organized political formations' (Bottomore, p.28). In what ways do studies of social movements complement and/or challenge theories of social change that emphasize social classes and elites? How important is the actor's point of view in the analysis of social movements?

Reading

Marger, M. Chapter 14 'Sociopolitical Movements' pp.275-301.

Bottomore, T. Chapter 2.'Social Movements, Parties and Political Action' pp. 28-41

Abrahamian, E. 'Structural Causes of Iranian Revolution' in Goldstone, pp.128-136

Green, J. 'Countermobilization in the Iranian Revolution' in Goldstone, pp.136-146.

N.B. Second take-home examination handed out in class. **Due: Tuesday, 20th. November.**

Thursday, 22nd. November-Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class.

Part 3. Power and Politics in the USA

Tuesday, 20th. November, Tuesday, 27th. November, Thursday, 29th. November

What are the prospects for democracy in capitalist America? What are the major differences between Domhoff's analysis and that of Dye - what are the areas of disagreement and agreement between them?

What is meant by corporate power and the 'corporatist' state? How important are political parties and voluntary associations in political decision-making and public policy formation? How important are professionals and public intellectuals in influencing political behaviour and outcomes?

Reading

Domhoff, William (2000) Who Rules America? Power and Politics in the Year 2000

Excerpts in course reader.

Dye, Thomas (1995) Who's Running America ? The Clinton Years. Excerpts in course reader.

Tuesday, 4th. December, Thursday, 6th. December

Alternative Visions.

Bellah, R., Madsen, R., Sullivan, W. Swidler, A., and Tipton, S. (1992)

The Good Society . Excerpts in course reader.

Alexander, J. and Smelser, N. 'Introduction: The Ideological Discourse of Cultural Discontent' in Alexander and Smelser, pp.3-18.

Wuthnow, R. 'The Culture of Discontent' in Alexander and Smelser, pp. 21-36.