

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 182
Tu Th 10:35am – 12:50pm
UCLA / Summer 2003
Haines A2

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This course will examine, sociologically, political power in the modern world. This examination will look at both institutional politics (rule through institutionalized mechanisms) and insurgent politics (attempts to wield power outside of regular institutional channels). During the course we will consider these questions.

- Does the USA have an upper class which is also a ruling class?
- Are the domestic and foreign policies of the State expressions of the class interests of the rulers or are they expressions of cultural values?
- If there is a ruling class, what power does the lower class have?

Course Objectives: We will attempt to achieve an understanding of current national and international political events in terms of class interests.

Required Books:

1. G. William Domhoff Who Rules America?
2. Chalmers Johnson Blowback
3. Avi Shlaim War and Peace in the Middle East
4. Dilip Hiro Iraq

Course Requirements: There will be two exams – a midterm and a final. The exams will be objective and (perhaps) essay tests. The midterm counts for 50% of your grade and the final for 50%.

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<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
1 June 24, 26	The basis of politics: cultural values or class interest? <i>Film: Hidden in Plain Sight</i>	<u>Domhoff</u> : 1 – 3
2 July 1, 3	Ideological Power <i>Film: The Panama Deception</i>	<u>Domhoff</u> : 4, 5 <u>Johnson</u> : 1, 2, 3
3 July 8, 10	Imperialism: Accident or Necessity? <i>Film: New Rulers of the World</i>	<u>Domhoff</u> : 6, 7 <u>Johnson</u> : 4, 5
4 July 15, 17	The U.S. in the Mideast <i>Film: Hidden Wars of Desert Storm</i>	<u>Johnson</u> : 6, 7 <u>Hiro</u> : 1 – 3 <u>Shlaim</u> : Intro, 1, 2
5 July 22, 24	The U.S. War against Iraq <i>Film: Paying the Price</i>	<u>Johnson</u> : 8, 9, 10 <u>Shlaim</u> : 3, 4, 5 <u>Hiro</u> : 4 – 6
6 July 29, 31	The Power of Those Who Do Not Rule <i>Films: Rebuilding Homes</i> <i>Crossing the Lines</i>	<u>Shlaim</u> : 6, 7, 8 <u>Hiro</u> : 7 – 9

Midterm Exam: July 15 - Tuesday

Final Exam: July 31 - Thursday