

**Sociology 129**  
**Political Sociology**

Spring 2002  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 1-2pm  
WJH 105

Ziad Munson, Instructor  
office: WJH 508 (office hours Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am-1pm)  
email: munson@wjh.harvard.edu  
phone: 495-7961

course website: <http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~soc129/>

Course Description

This class will examine major theoretical questions about power, politics, and the state from a sociological perspective. The course will introduce you to the major ideas and debates within the field of political sociology, and give you some of the tools needed to analyze power and politics.

We will read a wide range of research on the dynamics of political institutions and processes. We begin the course with two sections analyzing theories of power and the state. In these sections, we will read and discuss classic statements and illustrative cases from the major theoretical traditions, including power and powerlessness in Appalachia, revolution in Latin America, racism, welfare, and the rise of the Nazi party in Germany. We will then look at a number of major topics within the field, including historical questions concerning state formation and nationalism, social movements, globalization, political culture and participation, and civil society. We will talk substantively in these sections about the origins of the Civil Rights movements, changes in voting and political participation, campaign finance in recent elections, and the place of the United States in a global society.

Readings

The following books have been ordered at the COOP, and are also available at a discount from online retailers such as [ecampus.com](http://ecampus.com) and [Barnes & Noble \(bn.com\)](http://Barnes.com):

- Gaventa, John. 1982. *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press.
- Paige, Jeffery. 1997. *Coffee and Power: Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Latin America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- Quadagno, Jill. 1996. *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Brustein, William. 1996. *The Logic of Evil: The Social Origins of the Nazi Party, 1925-1933*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso.
- Clawson, Dan, Alan Neustadt, and Mark Weller. 1998. *Dollars and Votes*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Additional readings are available either in a reading packet on reserve at Hilles and Lamont libraries (marked RV in the syllabus), or online directly through Hollis (marked OL in the syllabus).

### Course Requirements

The course includes both lectures and in-class discussions. Preparing for each class by doing all the assigned readings, class attendance, and active participation are expected from all members of the class.

*Discussion Questions:* I will make 2-3 discussion questions relevant to upcoming topics in the class available on the course website weekly. Students are responsible for a 3-5 paragraph response to one of these questions by Monday of the following week. Responses should be submitted online through the website.

*Research Paper:* You will conduct an extended piece of research culminating in a 15-20 page paper due at the end of the semester. Specific requirements will be discussed in class, and I suggest that you meet with me early in the semester to discuss your project plans. There are three important deadlines: (1) a proposal for the paper is due March 15<sup>th</sup>, (2) a detailed outline of the paper is due April 26<sup>th</sup>, (3) the final paper is due May 15, the last day of reading period.

*Final Exam:* The final exam will consist of essay questions based on class readings, lectures, and discussions. It will be an open notes exam.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

- 15% class participation
- 25% discussion questions
- 30% research paper
- 30% final exam

### Class Schedule and Readings

#### **I. CONCEPTUALIZING POWER**

February 5: Power in Theoretical Perspective

- Wrong, Dennis. 1979. "Problems in Defining Power," chapter 1 (pp.9-17) of *Power: Its Forms, Bases, and Uses*. New York: Harper and Row. (RV)
- Etzioni, Amitai. 1968. "Power as a Societal Force," chapter 2 (pp.18-28) of *The Active Society*. New York: Free Press. (RV)

February 7: The Three Faces of Power

Olsen, Marvin. 1982. "Sociopolitical Pluralism," chapter 14 (pp.146-152) of *Participatory Pluralism*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall. (RV)

Gaventa, John. 1982. *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. (chapters 1-3)

February 12: Film—Harlan County USA

February 14: A Case Study of Power in Southern Appalachia

Gaventa, John. 1982. *Power and Powerlessness: Quiescence and Rebellion in an Appalachian Valley*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press. (chapters 4-7 and 9)

## II. MAJOR THEORETICAL TRADITIONS

February 19: Marx- Class Struggle and Political Power

Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1845-1859. *The German Ideology* (selections), "Preface to Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy," "Wage Labor and Capital" (selections), pp.146-175, 186-188, 3-6, 203-217 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Robert Tucker, ed.. New York: W.W. Norton (1978). (RV)

Lenin, Vladimir. 1932. *State and Revolution* (pp.5-20). International Publishers edition. (RV)

February 21: Application of the Marxist Approach- Democracy in Latin America

Paige, Jeffery. 1997. *Coffee and Power: Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Latin America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (read parts I, III, and IV)

February 26: Weber- Legitimation and Authority

Weber, Max. 1978 [1922]. "Domination by Economic Power and by Authority," "Characteristics of Modern Bureaucracy," "The Power Position of the Bureaucracy," pp.941-948, 956-958, 990-992 in *Economy and Society*, Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich, eds.. Berkeley: University of California Press. (RV)

Bendix, Reinhard. 1960. "Basic Concepts of Political Sociology," chapter 9 (pp.285-297) in *Max Weber: An Intellectual Portrait*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (RV)

King, Martin Luther. 1963. "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," reprinted as chapter 5 (pp.76-95) in *Why We Can't Wait*. New York: Penguin Books. (RV)

February 28: Application of the Weberian Approach- the War on Poverty in the U.S.

Quadagno, Jill. 1996. *The Color of Welfare: How Racism Undermined the War on Poverty*. New York: Oxford University Press. (read all)

March 5: The Tradition of John Stuart Mill- Theories of Rational Choice

Hardin, Russell. 1982. "Collective Action and Prisoner's Dilemma," chapter 2 (pp.16-37) in *Collective Action*. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press. (RV)

Aldrich, John. 1995. "Jacksonian Democracy: The Mass Party and Collective Action," chapter 4 (pp.97-125) in *Why Parties?* Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (RV)

March 7: Application of the Rationalist Approach- The Nazi Party in World War II

Brustein, William. 1996. *The Logic of Evil: The Social Origins of the Nazi Party, 1925-1933*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press. (read all)

March 12: Feminist Approaches

MacKinnon, Catherine. 1983. "Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: Toward Feminist Jurisprudence," *Signs* 8(4): 635-658. (RV)

Fraser, Nancy. 1989. "Women, Welfare, and the Politics of Need Interpretation," chapter 7 (pp.144-160) in *Unruly Practices*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. (RV)

### III. MAJOR TOPICS IN POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

March 14: The Sociology of the State

Skocpol, Theda. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," pp.3-43 in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. New York: Cambridge University Press. (RV)

Tilly, Charles. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime" pp.169-191 in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. New York: Cambridge University Press. (RV)

[March 15: final paper proposal due]

March 19: State Formation

- Paige, Jeffery. 1997. *Coffee and Power: Revolution and the Rise of Democracy in Latin America*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (read part II)
- Thomas, George M., and John Meyer. 1984. "The Expansion of the State," *Annual Review of Sociology* 10: 461-482. (OL)

March 21: Revolutions

- Goldstone, Jack. 1994. "The Comparative and Historical Study of Revolutions," introduction (pp.1-77) in *Revolutions*, Jack Goldstone, ed. New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers. (RV)
- Skocpol, Theda. 1994. "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions," pp.81-99 in *Revolutions*, Jack Goldstone, ed. New York: Harcourt Brace College Publishers. (RV)

\*\* SPRING BREAK \*\*

April 2: Social Movements

- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (chapters 1-4)

April 4: Application of Social Movement Theory: The American Civil Rights Movement

- McAdam, Doug. 1982. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency, 1930-1970*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (chapters 5-7 and 9)

April 9: Nationalism

- Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso.

April 11: Globalization

- Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 16: 387-415. (RV)
- Meyer, John W., John Boli, George M. Thomas, Francisco O. Ramirez. 1997. "World Society and the Nation-State," *American Journal of Sociology* 103: 144-181. (OL)

April 16: Civil Society: The Bottom-Up Approach

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 1835. *Democracy in America* (selections). (RV)  
Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital,"  
*Journal of Democracy* 6:65-78. (RV)

#### April 18: Civil Society: The Top-Down Approach

Skocpol, Theda, Marshall Ganz, and Ziad Munson. 2000. "A Nation of Organizers: The Institutional Origins of Civic Volunteerism in the United States," *American Political Science Review* 94(3): 527-546. (OL)  
Skocpol, Theda, Ziad Munson, Andrew Karch, and Bayliss Camp. 2002. "Patriotic Partnerships: Why Great Wars Nourished American Civic Voluntarism," in *Shaped by War and Trade*, Ira Katznelson and Martin Shefter, eds. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. (RV)

#### April 23: Political Participation

Brady, Henry E., Sidney Verba, Kay Lehman Schlozman. 1995. "Beyond SES: A Resource Model of Political Participation," *The American Political Science Review* 89(2): 271-294. (OL)  
Manza, Jeff, Clem Brooks. 1998. "The Gender Gap in U.S. Presidential Elections: When? Why? Implications?" *American Journal of Sociology* 103(5): 1235-1266. (OL)  
Hout, Michael, Clem Brooks, Jeff Manza. 1995. "The Democratic Class Struggle in the United States, 1948-1992," *American Sociological Review* 60(6):805-828. (OL)

#### April 25: Political Culture

Inglehart, Ronald. 1990. *Culture Shift in Advanced Industrial Society*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press (introduction, chapter 2, and chapter 9, pp. 3-14, 66-103, and 289-334). (RV)  
Sewell, William Jr.. 1985. "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case," *Journal of Modern History* 57(1): 56-85. (OL)

[April 26: detailed outline of final paper due]

#### April 30 & May 2: Political Influence

Clawson, Dan, Alan Neustadtl, and Mark Weller. 1998. *Dollars and Votes*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

[May 15: final paper due]