

Political Sociology: Graduate Seminar

Sociology 811

Fall 2012

Professor Kenneth (Andy) Andrews

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Schedule: Friday 9:00-11:30

Room: Hamilton 1511111

Office Hours: TH 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

Course website: https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/political_sociology

Course Description

This course examines the field of political sociology including programmatic statements of theorists and recent debates in the field. In this class we will examine major theoretical questions about power, politics and the state from a sociological perspective. The course will introduce you to the major theories, methods and analytic strategies within the field of political sociology as a basis for conducting your own research. We will read a wide range of important research on the dynamics of political institutions and processes. We begin the course by analyzing theories of power and the state. In the second section we examine macro-political questions concerning the development and transformation of modern states. The main cross-national and historical topics included in this section are state formation, democratization, and globalization. In the third sections of the course we will examine policy regimes and policy formation. Major topics include welfare systems, economic policy and regulation, and social policies. Finally, in the fourth section, we will focus on political culture and civic actors. Major topics include ritual and performance, political discourse and public opinion, voting, political parties and social movements. Throughout the course, a wide range of empirical cases will be covered including the state and economy, revolution and warfare, the welfare state, social inequality and policy, democracy and political participation, social movements and interest groups. The primary writing assignment will be a well-developed research proposal for a major project in political sociology suitable for submission for funding support.

Course Requirements

Class meetings will be organized as discussions. I will circulate reading questions for each class session. For class meetings, two students will be responsible for preparing a brief set of comments responding to those questions to get discussion started. Typically, I will take a few minutes at the beginning of class to comment on the week's themes and topics with an eye toward locating our reading in the broader field. Discussion leaders will then have an opportunity to reflect on the readings. These comments might include critical observations about the reading, identification of further questions to pursue, reflections on the applicability of concepts and theories in the reading to other cases, and so forth. Your comments should focus attention on key analytic questions and areas for debate and discussion. Each student will comment on readings for two class sessions during the semester.

In addition to the class presentation(s) and discussions, the other major requirement is a research proposal. Your proposal will be developed through an initial statement of your research question and empirical case (due Monday, September 17th), an initial draft on October 22nd, and a final version due at the end of the semester. If appropriate, this paper should include the findings of preliminary research. The goal for this assignment is a proposal suitable for a master's paper, grant/fellowship application, or dissertation. Over the semester, everyone will have a chance to present on their project and research plans and gain feedback from the class two times. Presentations will be spread out over the semester and occur during the final 30 minutes. The first presentation will focus on your research question and theoretical agenda, and the second will focus on the research design and substantive contribution your project will make.

Course grades will be based on class participation throughout the semester, presentations, and the research proposal.

Reading

- Charles Tilly. 1990. *Coercion, Capital, and European States*. Cambridge: Blackwell.
- Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens and John Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- James Mahoney. 2010. *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development* Cambridge University Press.
- Gosta Esping-Andersen. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Gretta Krippner. 2011. *Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 2009 (2nd edition). *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Jeffrey Alexander. 2011. *Performance and Power*. Polity Press.
- Sidney Tarrow. 2011. *Power in Movement*. (3rd edition) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

SCHEDULE

Power and States in Sociological Perspective

- Aug 24 Introduction to Political Sociology
 Gaventa, John. 1980. "Power and Participation" in *Power and Powerlessness*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- Aug 31 Power, Authority, Coercion, and States
 Alford, Robert and Roger Friedland, 1985. *Powers of Theory* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 1, 2, 7, 12)
 Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research" in *Bringing the State Back In*, P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, and T. Skocpol (eds.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Auyero, Javier. 2007. "The Gray Zone" in *Routine Politics and Violence in Argentina* NY: Cambridge University Press.

State Formation and Transformation

- Sept 7 State Formation
Tilly, Charles. 1992. *Coercion, Capital and European States* Cambridge: Blackwell. (Chs. 1-4)
Andreas Wimmer and Yuval Feinstein. "The rise of the nation-state across the world, 1816 to 2001", *American Sociological Review* 75(5):764-790, 2010.
- Sep 14 Postcolonial States
James Mahoney. 2010. *Colonialism and Postcolonial Development* Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 1-4, 8)
- Sep 21 Global Institutions and Processes
Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1974. *The Modern World System I*. San Diego: Academic Press. (pp. 3-11 and 357-57)
Saskia Sassen, *Losing Control? Sovereignty in an Age of Globalization* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1996), Chap 1
Meyer, John et al. 1997. "World Society and the Nation State" *American Journal of Sociology* 103: 144-181.
Jason Beckfield. 2010. "The Social Structure of the World Polity." *American Journal of Sociology* 115:1018-1068.
- Sep 28 Democratization
Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens and John Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs. 1-5)

Social Welfare, Markets and the Policy Process

- Oct 5 Welfare States
Esping-Anderson, Gosta. 1991. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chs. 1-3, 5-6, 9)
John Myles and Jill Quadagno, "Political Theories of the Welfare State," *Social Service Review*, Vol. 76, 2002, pp. 34-57.
- Oct 12 Economic Policy and Regulation
Gretta Krippner. 2011. *Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
- Oct 19 Mid-Term Break

Oct 26 Policy Process
Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones. 2009 (2nd edition). *Agendas and Instability in American Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs 1-5, 8, 9, 12)

Civil Society, Culture and Actors

Nov 2 Culture and Civil Society
Jeffrey Alexander. 2011. *Performance and Power*, (Chs. 1-5, 7, 10)
Ross, Mark Howard. 1997. "Culture and Identity in Comparative Political Analysis" in *Comparative Politics* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Nov 9 Public Opinion and Political Communication
Jeff Manza and Clem Brooks. 2012. "How Sociology Lost Public Opinion." *Sociological Theory* 30:89-113.
William Gamson. *Talking Politics*. NY: Cambridge University Press, Chs. 1 and 8.
Sobieraj, Sarah and Jeffrey Berry. (2011). "From Incivility to Outrage: Political Discourse in Blogs, Talk Radio, and Cable News." *Political Communication* 28 1:19-41

Nov 16 Voting, Interest Groups and Civic Engagement
David Knoke and Xi Zhu. 2012. "Interest Groups and Pluralism." Pp. 158-167 in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology*, edited by E. Amenta, K. Nash, and A. Scott. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.
Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction." in *Party Systems and Voter Alignments*. New York: Free Press.
Hout, Michael et al. 1995. "The Democratic Class Struggle in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 60:805-828.
Evan Schofer and Marion Fourcade-Gourinchas. 2001. "The Structural Contexts of Civil Engagement: Voluntary Association Membership in Comparative Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 66:806-828.

Nov 23 Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 Protest, Social Movements and Revolution
Tarrow, Sidney. *Power in Movement* (3rd edition) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 1-4, 8, 10-11)