

SOCY 7171: Political Sociology

Fall 2016

Thursday 5:00-7:30pm, HLMS 181

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This course is a graduate-level introduction to the field of political sociology, with a particular concentration on the Weberian, Marxist, and other critical traditions.

Broadly speaking, political sociology deals with the relationship between state and society. The nature of power, the role of ideology, and the mechanisms of social transformation will also be explored in this course, particularly in their relation to the state. Our focus will be on familiarizing ourselves with the classics in the field, though we will also read more contemporary texts to get a sense of how the classical tradition has been developed. Occasionally, we will read work by non-sociologists whose work has either influenced, or ought to have influenced, sociological thinking on politics. Each week will deal with a particular theme, some with very rich and robust sociological literatures, and others without. The goal throughout will be to connect the readings to your own research, with the understanding that all social relations are shaped by the state and politics.

Each student will be required to submit short comments/questions on the readings each week. These should be emailed to me by 8:00 a.m. on the day of class. Your comments/questions must show a critical engagement with one or more of the readings. In other words, no simple summaries or comprehension questions. Your comments/questions will form the basis of discussion for that week's class, so please come prepared to share your thoughts.

Additionally, each student is required to write a 10-20 page paper due at the end of the term. The paper can be on a topic of your choice, but I must approve the topic beforehand. The papers should engage with the themes and at least some of the readings from class.

Books to buy:

Hans H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1946)

Ralph Miliband. *The State in Capitalist Societies* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1969)

Göran Therborn. *The Ideology of Power and the Power of Ideology* (London: Verso, 1980)

Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction* (New York: Vintage, 1990)

August 25: First Day of Class

September 1: Weber

Reinhard Bendix. *Max Weber, An Intellectual Portrait* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977), Chapter IX: "Basic Concepts of Political Sociology," pp. 285-298.

Hans H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1946), Part II: Power, pp. 159-264.

Edgar Kiser and Justin Baer. "The Bureaucratization of States: Toward an Analytical Weberianism" in Julia Adams, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff *Remaking Modernity* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), pp. 225-249.

September 8: Marx

David Fernbach. "Introduction." in *Karl Marx: Political Writings, Vol. II: Surveys from Exile*, (New York: Viking, 1974), pp. 7-24.

Karl Marx. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte" in David Fernbach (ed.) *Karl Marx: Political Writings, Vol. II: Surveys from Exile*, (New York: Viking, 1974), pp. 146-156, 234-249.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. "Manifesto of the Communist Party" in David Fernbach (ed.) *Karl Marx: Political Writings, Vol. I: The Revolutions of 1848*, (New York: Viking, 1974), pp. 62-98.

Michael Burawoy. "Marxism after Communism," *Theory and Society*, 2000, 29(2), pp. 151-174.

September 15: Marxist Approaches to the State

Ralph Miliband. *The State in Capitalist Societies* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1969), Chapters 1-4. (119pp)

Nicos Poulantzas. "The Problem of the Capitalist State," *New Left Review*, 1969, 58, pp. 67-78. (12)

Ralph Miliband. "The Capitalist State: Reply to Nicos Poulantzas," *New Left Review*, 1970, 59, pp. 53-60. (8)

Ralph Miliband. "Poulantzas and the Capitalist State," *New Left Review*, 1973, 82, pp. 83-92. (10)

Ernesto Laclau. "The Specificity of the Political" in *Politics and Ideology in Marxist Theory* (London, New Left Books, 1977), pp. 51-81. (30)

Nicos Poulantzas. "The Capitalist State: A Reply to Miliband and Laclau," *New Left Review*, 1976, 95, pp. 63-83. (21)

Block, Fred. "The Ruling Class Does Not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State," *Socialist Revolution*, 1977, 33. (20)

September 22: State Formation

Charles Tilly. "Reflections on the History of European State-Making" in Charles Tilly (ed.) *The Formation of National States in Europe* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975), pp. 3-46.

Charles Tilly. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1990* (Cambridge, Blackwell, 1990), Chapter 3, pp. 67-95.

Michael Mann. *The Sources of Social Power, Vol. 2* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), Chapter 3, pp. 44-92.

Ann Shola Orloff. "Social Provision and Regulation: Theories of State, Social Policies, and Modernity" in Julia Adams, Elisabeth S. Clemens, and Ann Shola Orloff *Remaking Modernity* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), pp. 190-125.

September 29: The Concept of the State

Philip Abrams. "Notes on the Difficulty of Studying the State," *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 1988, 1, pp. 58-89.

JP Nettle. "The State as a Conceptual Variable," *World Politics*, 1968, 20(4), pp. 559-592.

Theda Skocpol. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research," in Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Theda Skocpol (eds.) *Bringing the State Back In* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), pp. 3-33.

George Steinmetz. "Introduction: Culture and the State" in George Steinmetz (ed.) *State/Culture: State Formation after the Cultural Turn* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), pp. 1-29.

Timothy Mitchell. "Society, Economy, and the State Effect," in George Steinmetz (ed.) *State/Culture: State Formation after the Cultural Turn* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), pp. 76-97.

October 6: Bourdieu and the State

Pierre Bourdieu. *On the State. Lectures at the Collège de France, 1989-1992* (Cambridge: Polity, 2014), pp. 3-44.

Pierre Bourdieu. "Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field" in George Steinmetz (ed.) *State/Culture: State Formation after the Cultural Turn* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), pp. 53-76.

Loïc Wacquant. "On the Tracks of Symbolic Power: Prefatory Notes on Bourdieu's 'State Nobility'" *Theory, Culture & Society*, 1993, 10(1), pp. 1-17.

Pierre Bourdieu. *The State Nobility* (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1996), pp. 261-272 and 371-390.

Mara Loveman. "The Modern State and the Primitive Accumulation of Symbolic Power" *American Journal of Sociology*, 2005, 110(6), pp. 1651-1683.

Dylan Riley. "The New Durkheim: Bourdieu and the State" *Critical Historical Studies*, 2015, 2(5), pp. 261-279.

October 13: Gender and the State

Catharine MacKinnon. "Feminism, Marxism, Method, and the State: An Agenda for Theory," *Signs*, 1982, 7(3), pp. 515-544.

Judith Butler. "Disorderly Woman" *Transition*, 1991, 53, pp. 86-95.

Wendy Brown. *States of Injury. Power and Freedom in Late Modernity* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995), Chapter 6, pp. 135-166.

Wendy Brown. "Finding the Man in the State" *Feminist Studies*, 1992, 18(1), pp. 7-34.

Ann Shola Orloff. "Gender and the Social Rights of Citizenship: The Comparative Analysis of Gender Relations and Welfare States" *American Sociological Review*, 1993, 58, pp. 303-328.

October 20: Power

Michael Mann. *The Sources of Social Power, Vol. I* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1986), pp. 1-33.

Robert Dahl. "The Concept of Power" *Behavioral Science*, 1957, 2(3), pp. 201-215.

Steven Lukes. *Power: A Radical View, 2nd Edition* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005), Introduction, Chapter 1, pp. 1-60.

Isaac Ariail Reed. "Power: Relational, Discursive, and Performative Dimensions" *Sociological Theory*, 2013, 31, pp. 193-218.

October 27: Power, Discourse, and Ideology I: Althusser

Louis Althusser. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" in *Lenin and Philosophy* (London: New Left Books, 1971), pp. 121-172.

Elizabeth Wingrove. "Interpellating Sex" *Signs*, 1999, 24(4), pp. 869-893.

Göran Therborn. *The Ideology of Power and the Power of Ideology* (London: Verso, 1980).

November 3: Power, Discourse, and Ideology II: Foucault, Knowledge, Power

Michael Power. "Foucault and Sociology" *Annual Review of Sociology*, 2011, 37, pp. 35-56

Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1: An Introduction* (New York: Vintage, 1990), pp. 3-49, 77-102, and 135-159.

Michel Foucault. "Governmentality" in Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon, and Peter Miller (eds.) *The Foucault Effect. Studies in Governmentality* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), pp. 87-104.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (eds.) *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (Basingstoke: Macmillan Education, 1988), pp. 271-313.

Pierre Bourdieu. "Description and Prescription. The Conditions of Possibility and the Limits of Political Effectiveness" in John B. Thompson (ed.) *Language and Symbolic Power* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991), pp. 127-136.

Pierre Bourdieu. "Delegation and Political Fetishism" John B. Thompson (ed.) *Language and Symbolic Power* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1991), pp. 203-220.

November 10: Revolutions

Theda Skocpol. *States and Social Revolutions* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1979), Introduction and Conclusion, pp. 3-40 and 284-293.

William H. Sewell, Jr. "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case" *The Journal of Modern History*, 1985, 57(1), pp. 57-85.

Theda Skocpol. "Cultural Idioms and Political Ideologies in the Revolutionary Reconstruction of State Power: A Rejoinder to Sewell" *The Journal of Modern History*, 1985, 57(1), pp. 86-96.

Michael Burawoy. "Two Methods in Search of Science: Skocpol Versus Trotsky" *Theory and Society*, 1989, 18, pp. 759-805.

William H. Sewell, Jr. "Historical Events as Transformations of Structures: Inventing Revolution at the Bastille" *Theory and Society*, 1996, 25, pp. 841-881.

November 17: Events and Contingency in Political Sociology

William H. Sewell, Jr. "Three Temporalities: Toward an Eventful Sociology" in *Logics of History. Social Theory and Social Transformation* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), pp. 81-124.

Elisabeth S. Clemens. "Toward a Historicized Sociology: Theorizing Events, Processes, and Emergence" *Annual Review of Sociology*, 2007, 33, pp. 527-549.

Robert S. Jansen. "Situated Political Innovation: Explaining The Historical Emergence of New Modes of Political Practice," *Theory and Society*, 2016, 45(4): 319-360.

Ivan Ermakoff. "The Structure of Contingency," *American Journal of Sociology*, 2016, 121(1), pp. 62-125.

December 1: Civil Society and Hegemony

Robert Putnam. *Bowling Alone. The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Touchstone, 2001), Chapters 1-3, 15, 21-22, pp. 15-65, 277-287, 336-367.

Margaret P. Somers. "Let them eat social capital: how marketizing the social turned Solidarity into a bowling team" in *Genealogies of Citizenship: Markets, Statelessness, and the Right to Have Rights* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008), pp. 213-254.

Dylan Riley. *The Civic Foundations of Fascism in Europe. Italy, Spain, and Romania 1870-1945* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010), Chapters 1 and 6, pp. 1-23, 193-213.

Perry Anderson. "The Antinomies of Antonio Gramsci," *New Left Review*, 1976, 100, pp. 5-78

December 8: Postcolonial Sociology

Frantz Fanon. *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove, 1963), pp. 1-63.

Edward Said. *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979), pp. 1-31.

George Steinmetz. "Major Contributions to Sociological Theory and Research on Empire, 1830s-Present" in George Steinmetz (ed.) *Sociology & Empire. The Imperial Entanglements of a Discipline* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2013), pp. 1-53.

Gurminder Bhambra. "Sociology and Postcolonialism: Another 'Missing Revolution?'" *Sociology*, 2007, 41(5), pp. 871-884.

Julian Go. "For a Postcolonial Sociology" *Theory and Society*, 2013, 42(1), pp. 25-55.