

Sociology 290:01

Political Sociology

Fall Semester 2017

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Tu. Fr.:12:30 to 1:55 p.m.; 3 credits 920 290:01

Location: 122 Davison Hall Douglass College

We will use Sakai as another means of engagement and communications

Main Sakai portal <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Descriptions and Definitions:

Sociology is the systematic and interpretative study of interactions within and among social groups and related human behavior that define social life. Political Sociology is a rich subfield of sociology with its own proud traditions and literature. While a broad area of investigation and thought, it focuses on political processes and power – in particular, which groups have ability to implement their political, social and economic agendas and which ones do not and why? And more importantly *how* do certain groups, in various political systems from various types of democracies to single party rule to dictatorships actually achieve the outcomes they seek? So political sociology explores the *means* by which *certain* groups affect political outcomes that shape society and social-political reality. We will focus mostly on western democracies, especially the U.S., but other countries and systems will be included in discussions. Globalization as an on-going social, cultural, political, and economic phenomenon will be discussed throughout the semester. An emerging set of questions I believe it needs to be asked include: Is democracy, as a political system, currently being challenged, if not under a full attack? Is it seriously being challenged within our country, especially with the use of generated great wealth to influence our political process and assaults on the integrity of the media, governmental institutions, and science. This includes the rise of the term “fake news” to criticized facts (and opinion) not accepted by others and the growing use of “false equivalencies”. Internationally, we all have witnessed the growing (at least short-term) success of non or less democratic nations such as Russia, China, increasingly Turkey, Philippines (under current President Duterte), among others. Clearly, nationalism or more sentiments that are nationalistic seem to be growing given the Brexit vote in the UK, Modi’s National Hinduism in India, Turkey’s conservative religious push in Turkey, and the rise of Trumpism in the U.S., Putinism in Russia, and so on. This is a time of global uneasiness.

U.S. Political Sociology has historically examined elites, social class, the state, political parties and processes, the media, and social movements and related organizations, events, and thought that have informed the politics of history and of our time. Clearly, the U.S. is going through unsettling times especially around issues of race/ethnicity/difference, as well as income inequality, and growing political divide. We will discuss these issues in great length in class, especially through discussion of current events as well as some readings. The three major social institutions or arenas that shape social and political life of the modern era are the *marketplace* (business community/ economic activities/ the market and related organizations and market ideologies), *the state* (government/ agencies/laws, policies, ideologies and state theory), and *civil society* (social movements and non-profit / civic or citizen-based organizations; and ideologies once again. Note: political parties are often placed here; others place them in a fourth institution or with the state, depending on the system they are found, e.g. China’s one and only Communist Party is clearly integrated with the state). A key question continually asked today – are the three major modern institutions of society reasonably autonomous from one another or are they more integrated and

controlled by those with more narrow interests? The theories and events we discuss will typically point to one answer or another. Of course, socio-political life is fluid and these interactions and spheres of *domination* ebb and flow over time. *A key question remains however – do social-political outcomes really change that much as the powerful elite tend to dominate most events? If they do change -when and how do they change?*

Key constructs of political sociology are “power”, “domination”, “legitimacy”, “the state”, “elites and their networks”, “social class and inequality”, and “protest, collective action and social movements.” Early classical sociologists such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Emile Durkheim each provided important contributions to the study of political sociology:

Karl Marx [along with Friedrich Engels] focused on capitalism, the capitalist class and how it dominates all aspects of life – the economic, social, and political - leading naturally over time to growing economic and social inequality and eventually to political revolution from the proletariat masses below ending in the rise of a classless and stateless society. The pattern of growing inequality and revolution is one found throughout the history of mankind. Capitalism is only the more recent iteration of this history.

Max Weber argued for the importance of the modern state and the power of the administrative bureaucracy of the state and its offices of experts as dominant players in society. He was deeply troubled by the fact that top bureaucrats who are often faceless are typically outside of the democratic process yet controlled tremendous resources of the state. Weber was also well known for outlining “politics as vocation” or politics rooted in the art of compromise instead of conviction as well as other key observations on interest groups and domination. He is the intellectual father of western study public administration/government, complex-formal organizations, elites, comparative religions, among other areas of study and methodologies.

Emile Durkheim [along with Alexis de Tocqueville] outlined a view suggesting the importance of shared values and practices in society. He placed value in organized citizen groups “outside” the state and the marketplace and how they provided the substance for democratic principles, action and the “glue for society.” Civil society is typically seen as “social space for citizens” to engage for solving collective action problems, for political debate, in social protest and other collective efforts in challenging the market and the state without interference. While Marx and Weber were what we call conflict sociologists – interested in what drives us apart or causes conflicts within society, Durkheim has been labeled as a consensus sociologist – interested in what keeps society together.

More recent contributors to political sociology include such thinkers such as Antonio Gramsci, Karl Polanyi, C. Wright Mills, Seymour Martin Lipset, Theda Skocpol, Charles Tilly, Robert Putnam and many more. These scholars among others typically continue to build upon or adjust/critique the arguments of these classical theorists.

We focus simultaneously on the political sociology of the United States and the growth of political/ economic power internationally, that is outside of the U.S., along with the rise of globalization. The questions surrounding globalization include – is there global elite that exists outside of particular nation-states? If so what are the consequences of such a reality? Are the powers of nation-states diminishing in the face of growing globalization? Finally, is the U.S. on its last legs as a superpower, especially given the recent and rapid economic/ political rise of China, India, Brazil, etc. and the international community? Is global power shifting certainly and if so what does that mean to the U.S. wealth and power? And is American Democracy, and democracy generally being seriously challenged or not?

The Course’s Core Questions: The central questions I raise are as follows: Is there a “ruling class” in America? If so, how is that possible in a democracy? These central questions then lead to others: Similarly, if true, what does that mean about the state of our democracy? How did we get to be in this state of affairs? And if this problematic, what should be/can be done about this, if anything?

Political Sociology, typical of sociology more generally, is a “confrontational” subdiscipline, attempting to expose often hidden social realities. With power at the center of its investigation, it questions and exposes historic and current power arrangements and patterns of interactions. With this realization, political sociology theory tends to runs ideologically from center right to radical left - that is from the view of interest group-based balanced politics

to social change and even revolution. Still, its main goal is to understand the nature of power and politics and its effects on society.

Central to this course will be your understanding of four major theories of Political Sociology. Each will be discussed in greater detail during the semester but you should pay attention to both the theories and evidence from readings, news sources, and discussions that point to/ support one or another, etc. The four theories are:

Pluralism Theory – interest group-based politics and political processes – democratic equilibrium / compromise is achieved and no one group dominates politically. Hence political order and civic wellbeing is maintained through shared or distributive power. This is viewed as the democratic ideal.

State Autonomy Theory/ Historical Institutionalism – focuses on the role of an independent/ professional state (bureaucracies) in management of society's affairs. The state and its administrators at times can rise above the interest group politics/powerful interests and do what is required for the larger common good/national interest viewed from the perspectives of these bureaucratic agencies.

Class Domination Theory – The Corporate Class (Capitalists) rule society and government / the state through their wealth and power. The corporate ruling class uses its wealth and power to influence the political process to their advantage. Democratic processes are not absent but overwhelmed/ dominated.

Elite Theory/ The Power Elite – the affairs of society are really in the hands of a relatively small network of extraordinary individuals without a particular political ideology or necessarily class allegiance although possess a strong belief in the need for elite rule. These individuals move back and forth from positions of authority in economic, political and civic spheres. Democracy is a more myth than reality as these individuals “run” the nation but may have “good for the nation streak” to them. A plutocracy however is a type of power elite of wealthy individuals who serve mostly themselves.

LEARNING GOALS/OUTCOMES: By the end of the semester, I expect you will have a good understanding of the concepts, basic theories, arguments and literature related to Political Sociology. You should be able to answer questions soundly – *What is political sociology? What basic theories shape this subdiscipline?* I will expect you to be able to articulate, support, and challenge each of four theories noted above. We will ground our discussions in the assigned readings, lectures, films, and current events.

Expectations:

Current events will play a key role in our discussions for the semester. I expect everyone to attend lecture and to discuss the material; I reward those who do; penalize those who do not. I expect everyone to contribute to class with questions and comments, thoughts and disagreements/debates. Some will contribute more than others – that is OK. I reward effort and substance, not just frequency. In short, your goal is to add energy to the class and its discussions. *You cannot add energy if you do not attend.*

I tend to give integrative lectures – where I present and discuss with you the material at hand, readings, and current events. You will need to be prepared by having read the assigned material when it has been assigned. On a few occasions, we may break down into smaller groups and then report out to the full class.

To spur participation in the class, I will expect everyone to become engaged in current events. I urge each of you to read the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times* –frequently as possible [online is fine] – as well as watch all three major cable networks - *MSNBC*, *CNN*, and *FOX* [the most ideological and money driven]. Major airing networks such as CBS, NBC, and ABC are the most MAIN STREAM and professional. Ideally, it would be terrific to follow the same events/ stories across the major networks as well as in different media form – print, TV, and radio such as *National Public Radio*. Other online publications of interest include: *The Atlantic*, *Slate*, *The Weekly Standard*, *The American Prospect*, *The Economist* and so on. ProPublica is a very interesting, Award-Winning, online news source. It is a non-profit organization that focuses on investigative journalism in the public interest. Political investigative reporting is unfortunately a dying industry because of the enormous costs involved. Media links:

<http://online.wsj.com/home-page> <http://www.nytimes.com/> <http://www.npr.org/>
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/> <http://www.cnn.com/> <http://www.foxnews.com/>
<http://www.propublica.org/> <http://www.economist.com/> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/> <http://www.prospect.org/> <http://www.weeklystandard.com/>
<http://www.slate.com/> <http://www.breitbart.com/> <https://www.theatlantic.com/>

I also urge you – although it is likely you are already doing so – to watch John Oliver’s show, *Last Week Tonight* is a great addition to the line-up. We may watch some old episodes of Jon Stewart’s *The Daily Show* (although Trevor Noah can be good) and the *Colbert Report* with Stephen Colbert. I am so sad they are no more (sigh). These shows have become the modern version of the “political cartoon” – brilliant and biting – exposing hidden political truths through humor and satire. <http://www.thedailyshow.com/> <http://www.colbertnation.com/home> <http://www.hbo.com/last-week-tonight-with-john-oliver#/>

<p>Current Academic Integrity Policy: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.</p> <p><i>Optional: Instructors may include a Honor Pledge:</i></p> <p>"On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized aid on this (exam, test, paper)."</p> <p><i>Or use the sakai honor pledge check box:</i></p> <p>Honor Pledge: I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment. <input type="checkbox"/> (You must respond to submit your assignment.)</p>	<p><i>General Academic Integrity Link:</i> http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/</p> <p><i>Resources for instructors (and students) can be found at:</i> http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources</p> <p>WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT INSTRUCTORS INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PLAGIARISM TUTORIALS IN THEIR COURSE DESIGN:</p> <p><i>Take a 20 minute interactive-tutorial on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity,</i> http://www.scc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html</p> <p><i>Consult Don't Plagiarize: Document Your Research! For tips about how to take notes so that you don't plagiarize by accident.</i> http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/avoid_plagiarism</p>
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Required Readings:

Books: are available at the book store *and can be found on reserve at the Douglass Library Reserve Desk. Other assigned readings outside of books will be available online or Sakai.* The following are our required books (They may be cheaper online) [Texts 1 [no need to purchase], 2 and 3]:

[No Need to Purchase]: Text 1 Katherine J .Cramer. 2016. *The Politics of Resentment*: University of Chicago Press [although read only Chapters 1, 3 and 4] Those chapters will be placed on Sakai. Also Text 1 is on Reserves at Douglass College Library

Text 2: Christopher Hayes. 2012. *Twilight of the Elites: America After Meritocracy*. Crown

Text 3: G. William Domhoff. 2013. *Who Rules America? The Triumph of the Corporate Rich* 7th Ed. McGraw Hill. [Note: This text tends to be expensive which I hate but it is excellent – see below]

NOTE: Most of Domhoff’s thinking and research can be found on his website. It would take some digging but you should be able to find the information in your text on this website. This text can also be rented and found on reserve.

See Additional / Optional Readings and Resources at the end of the syllabus

Requirements: In-class discussion/activities will comprise a key aspect of this course. Attendance and weekly preparation are essential and will be evaluated accordingly. We will have *two in class written exams* (exam 1 and exam 2) and two short reaction papers tied to specific readings (Text 1 and Text 2). The two exams will focus on specific material from lectures and readings - exam 1: will focus on the first half to 2/3rds of the course based upon presentations, discussions, and readings. Exam 2 will center on William Domhoff's *Who Rules America?*, presentations, and discussion. Typical of my courses, you will be given a study guide from which several questions will be selected to answer in bluebooks. Missed exams with appropriate excuses will be made up outside of class at a time and place to be determined. Two reaction papers will provide you an opportunity to react to two key readings – text 1 and 2. Essentially, you will write on what the book was about; its important ideas/findings and your reaction to those findings. How do they shape your understanding of political sociology? I will provide more details later, but will be 4 pages in length (double space) and will require you to read and understanding both texts. You will submit yours papers via Turnitin.

The % of grade for each requirement is as follows:

Exam 1:	25% [in class; October 27 th]
Exam 2:	25% [Exam Period Tuesday December 19 th]
2 Short Papers:	30% [15% each. Paper 1 on Text 1 and Paper 2 on Text 2]
Participation:	20% [attendance and discussion; unexcused absences hurts]

Grades will be as follows:

90+	A
88-89	B+
80-87	B
78-79	C+
Etc.	

Classroom etiquette: The success of this class depends in part on our collective efforts to create a safe environment for expressing diverse opinions. Please be mindful of other's perspectives during class discussions. While honest disagreement is to be expected, *everyone should be respectful of others when contributing ideas to class discussion and when responding to your classmates' comments.*

Electronic Devices: I will appreciate your attention during class as well as to your classmates. *While I will not band your devices from the classroom – in fact we may need to use them from time to time – courtesy to me and your classmates are expected at all times.*

Course Outline:

Week 1

Tu. Sept 05: Introduction to Political Sociology as a field of study; Definitions & Central Questions; Course Introduction

Readings: Trust in our Institutions including Political

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/1597/confidence-institutions.aspx#2>

[Take the Political Ideological Quiz – to see where you stand](http://www.politicalcompass.org/)

<http://www.politicalcompass.org/>

Fr. Sept. 08: Presentation & Discussion
Conceptual Overview of Political Sociology;
Introductions – Review of Key Terms and Concepts

Our Current Ideological Wars – What Do Conservatives and Liberals Want?

<https://www.voterstudygroup.org/reports/2016-elections/political-divisions-in-2016-and-beyond>

For Class Discussion:

Prager University and AEI...on conservative economic thinking regarding government.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWLCaeJkKFo>

Week 2

Tu. Sept 12: Film: *The America Ruling Class*

<http://vimeo.com/46181665>

Fr. Sept 15: Discussion – Discussion of Film and Readings
Continue Reading Text 1

Home Work for Today: Readings and Discussion of the Powell Memo

http://reclaimdemocracy.org/powell_memo_lewis/

<http://billmoyers.com/content/the-powell-memo-a-call-to-arms-for-corporations/>

<http://law2.wlu.edu/powellarchives/page.asp?pageid=1251>

Note Homework Assignment for Tuesday Sept. 19th; See Below

Start Reading Text 1: *Kramer Politics of Resentment – Chapters: 1, 3 and 4. (on Sakai or on reserve)*

Robert P. Jones May 2, 2017 New York Times Op. Ed.:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/opinion/the-collapse-of-american-identity.html>

Continued below:

Carol Anderson August 5, 2017 New York Times Op. Ed.:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/05/opinion/sunday/white-resentment-affirmative-action.html>

Week 3

- Tu. Sept 19: Presentation: Classical Theorists – Karl Marx and Friends – Capitalism and the State – Power and class relations and culture (hegemonic beliefs)
- The Power of Discourse/ Ideas – Example of Neoliberalism or the importance of a free market – free market ideology – David Harvey on “Neoliberalism” and the political project. Note: It starts slowly but picks up tremendously in the last several. David Harvey: 5 part YouTube video on this important topic. It takes about 45 minutes. [Note: Harvey is likely the most famous Marxist scholar alive today]; Encouraged to Take Notes

Homework Assignment: Watch this presentation at the U of Chicago – We will discuss in class today Sept. 19th

See Below.....

Part 1: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkWWMOzNNrQ>

Part 2: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwboT2DhJC8>

Part 3: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZg4esZFhOU>

Part 4: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhzkBRyhjlc>

Part 5: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pN3Iz7XzUWM>

- Fr. Sept 22: Max Weber’s Political Sociology:
Classical Theorist – Max Weber and Friends – State and Society; The State and Political Authority; Politics as Vocation
Brief Discussion and Questions about Text 1 and Paper 1

Continue Reading Text 1: Chapters 1, 3 and 4

Robert P. Jones May 2, 2017 New York Times Op. Ed.:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/opinion/the-collapse-of-american-identity.html>

Carol Anderson August 5, 2017 New York Times Op. Ed.:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/05/opinion/sunday/white-resentment-affirmative-action.html>

Paper due next Friday October 6th

Week 4

- Tu. Sept 26: Durkheim’s Political Sociology
Presentation: Classical Theorists – Emile Durkheim and Alexis de Tocqueville – Civil Society and Democracy (with others Friends)
Presentation and Discussion
Final Questions about Text 1 and Paper Due Friday

- Fr. Sept. 29: ***Discussion of Katherine Cramer’s Politics of Resentment and Assigned Readings***
Paper 1 Due before the start of class (bring copy to class for your own reference)

More Economic/Political Considerations:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/11/opinion/sunday/trump-hysteria-democracy-tyranny.html>

Week 5

Tu. Oct. 03: Presentation: Classical Theorists – Karl Polanyi and Friends – *The Great Transformation*; The Rise of Market Society; Market Fundamentalism; and Double Movements

Fr. Oct. 06: Discussion of Market Society
Michael Sandel [save for class]
Readings: Michael Sandel: Atlantic:
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/04/what-isnt-for-sale/308902/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvDpYHyBlgc>
Student Debt
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-culprit-behind-surg-ing-tuition-at-public-universities/>

Week 6

Tu. Oct. 10: Exploring the Causes and Consequences of Inequality in the U.S. and globally
The Ideological Wars Continued
Data and Discussion on Growing Inequality in the US and Globally

Resources for Discussion – Class Presentation:

1. US Inequality over time in One Graph
 - a. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/opinion/leonhardt-income-inequality.html>
2. Economic Inequality by RACE
 - a. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/29/opinion/sunday/black-income-white-privilege.html>
3. Stanford Piece on US upward Social-Economic Mobility
 - a. <https://medium.com/@stanfordmag/this-is-not-your-parents-economy-93f08d7811a>
4. Additional information on Inequality
 - a. <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/how-the-last-decade-created-a-brutal-wealth-divide/>

In Class Discussion: History of Segregated Housing

<http://www.npr.org/2015/05/06/404441478/troubled-neighborhoods-reflect-segregations-legacy-researcher-says>

Economy NOT Inequality – Lesson for the Democratic Party?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/15/business/economy/democratic-party-economy-inequality.html>

Fr. Oct. 13:	<p>Mass Incarceration and The Penal State Opioid Addiction Crisis: A Contrast</p> <p>Presentation on The New Jim Crow http://www.controldocumentary.com/watch-control.html</p> <p>http://www.imdb.com/video/wab/vi2486673689/</p> <p>Bail in New Jersey https://www.nbcnews.com/specials/bail-reform</p> <p>Opioid Addiction Crisis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/jun/25/opioids-addiction-survivors-recovery-treatment https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/aug/13/dont-blame-addicts-for-americas-opioid-crisis-real-culprits
Week 7	
Tu. Oct. 17:	<p>Money and Elections Documentary: Priceless http://www.acrreform.org/feature/watch-the-documentary-priceless/</p>
Fr. Oct. 20:	<p>Presentation - Money in Politics – Citizens United and Related Supreme Court Rulings; PACs and Super PACs Read:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Super Pacs vs. contributions (more limited) directly to candidates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/politics/superpac-donors-2016/ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-10-mega-donors-already-helped-pour-a-record-11-billion-into-super-pacs/2016/10/05/d2d51d44-8a60-11e6-875e-2c1bfe943b66_story.html?utm_term=.555b9a033a02 Discussion of Gilens and Paige 2014 Findings http://www.slate.com/blogs/weigel/2014/04/24/gilens_and_page_find_that_rich_americans_rule_politics_but_despair_the_fact.html Solutions: https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/03/fix-money-in-politics/473214/ Explore Website: Common Cause http://www.commoncause.org/issues/money-in-politics/ Explore Website: Open Secrets https://www.opensecrets.org/ <p>Begin Reading Text 2: Hayes – Twilight of the Elites</p>
Week 8	
Tu. Oct 24:	Review for Exam 1
Fr. Oct 27:	<u>In Class Bluebook ExaminationI</u>

Week 9

- Tu. Oct. 31: Social Movements – Protest of Politics
Film: *This is What Democracy Looks Like!*
- Begin Reading Text 2: Christopher Hayes – *The Twilight of the Elites*
- Fr. Nov. 03: Presentation: Introduction to Protests and Social Movements
– The Public’s Demand for Change
- Reading: <http://freakonomics.com/2009/08/20/do-protests-matter-a-freakonomics-quorum/>
- Reading: <http://www.npr.org/2016/06/25/483400958/from-brexit-to-trump-nationalist-movements-gain-momentum-around-world>
- Black Lives Matters:
<http://blacklivesmatter.com/>
- Anti Fascists (Antifa)
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-charlottesville-what-is-antifa-20170816-story.html>
- https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/virginia-clashes-bring-attention-to-anti-fascist-movement/2017/08/16/027046f2-82cf-11e7-9e7a-20fa8d7a0db6_story.html?utm_term=.ef96a88b0c2c
- ** <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2017/09/the-rise-of-the-violent-left/534192/>
- ALT- Right:
<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/intelligence-report/2017/eye-stormer>
- <https://www.theverge.com/2017/8/24/16200002/daily-stormer-dreamhost-anonymous-ddos-attack>
- Continue Reading Text 2; Christopher Hayes – *The Twilight of the Elites*

Week 10

- Tu. Nov. 7: Political Sociology of C. Wright Mills
The Power Elite and the Military Industrial Complex
Presentation and Discussion
Republicans/ Eisenhower http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/08/books/review/books-about-conservatism-and-the-tea-party.html?_r=1
- Paper 2: Due Next Tuesday: Nov. 14th**
- Fr. Nov. 10: David Rothkopf’s *Superclass* - Continuing in Mill’s Tradition
Presentation, Video, and Discussion
In Class Video and Discussion
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5ngPp5FC2k&feature=related>
[presentation at the Carnegie Endowment]

Week 11

- Tu. Nov. 14: **Paper 2 Due: Discussion of Paper 2; Text 2**
Christopher Hayes – *The Twilight of the Elites*
- Fr. Nov. 17: Presentation: Mass Media and Public Opinion
Findings on Politics and Public Opinion in the US and Globally
Updates on “Fake News and “Alternative Facts”
Rise of Sinclair Broadcast Group – Reach of 72% of Americans
Gallup Public Polling on Media Bias
Reading: http://www.gallup.com/poll/207794/six-partisan-bias-news-media.aspx?g_source=party+affiliateion&g_medium=search&g_campaign=tiles

Reading: https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/08/24/opinion/trump-journalists-enemy.html?rref=collection%2Fcolumn%2Fnicholas-kristof&action=click&contentCollection=opinion®ion=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=collection&r=0&referrer=https://www.nytimes.com/column/nicholas-kristof
- e
- Begin Reading Text 3: Domhoff’s *Who Rules America?***

Week 12

- Tu. Nov. 21: Presentation: The Age of Asymmetry – Terrorism / Individual Rights and Surveillance
W. Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Make-up Day – Open Day

Fr. Nov. 24: Thanksgiving Break

Continue Reading Text 3: *Who Rules America?*

Week 13

- Tu. Nov. 28: Exploring Class Domination Theory – Session 1
Discussion of Domhoff Readings: Preface to Chapter 5

Distribution of Examination 2 Study Guide

Reading: Jane Mayer New Yorker Article on the Koch Brothers
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2010/08/30/covert-operations>
- Fr. Dec. 01: Exploring Class Domination Theory – Session 2
Discussion of Domhoff Readings: Preface to Chapter 9

Reading: Kristof – America the Unfair?
<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/21/opinion/america-the-unfair.html>

Reading: BBC News: Study: US is an oligarchy, not a democracy
<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-echochambers-27074746>

The central source for above pieces (note there are others that confirm)
https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/mgilens/files/gilens_and_page_2014_-_testing_theories_of_american_politics.doc.pdf

Paige, Barttels and Seawright 2013. Policy Preferences of Wealth Americans: (see below)
<http://faculty.wcas.northwestern.edu/~jnd260/cab/CAB2012%20-%20Page1.pdf>

Week 14

- Tu. Dec. 05: Global Climate Change Politics
Video: Years of Living Dangerously – Episode 6 or The Merchants of Doubt
Discussion of Video
- Fr. Dec. 08: Discussion of Video: Policy and Opinion Shaping Networks
Politics of Climate Change

Week 15:

- Tu. Dec. 12 Presentation and Discussion of Current Thoughts on Elites – Their fracturing
Discussion of Mizruuchi' *"The Fracturing of the American Corporate Elite"*
Final Thoughts/ Conclusions
- Review for Examination 2

EXAMINATION 2: TUESDAY DECEMBER 19TH. Time To Be Confirmed