

SOCIOLOGY 641: POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY  
PROFESSOR CATHERINE LEE  
SPRING 2009: TUESDAYS 4:10 – 6:50 P.M.  
LUCY STONE HALL A256

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment

This is an introductory course to the major themes and debates in political sociology—an incredibly diverse field. In the course, we will explore political sociology as the study of the nexus of power relations between state and society. In examining the constellation of actors and institutions within which these relations reside, we will ask some fundamental questions such as what is power? Where does it exist? What change, if any, can it generate? For whom or what does it serve? For what purpose or goals? We will investigate these questions as we critically engage both theoretical and empirical works. Given limited time and wide breadth of the field, the goal of the course is not to make you experts in any given subfield. Rather, my expectation is that you will develop a critical understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of power relations between state and society. In particular, my hope is that you will gain insight into *how* to ask incisive questions in political sociology. Towards that purpose, we will spend the most time examining “the state” – by which I mean we will consider what the state is, how it developed, and critical challenges to these interpretations – particularly from gender and race and ethnicity scholars. We will then follow with important subfields, including studies of nationalism, democracy, revolutions, social movements, political organization, and civic participation.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1) Weekly memos: Short, one- to two-page memos that critically engage the readings. Do not summarize the materials but instead discuss the strengths and weaknesses and discover ways to make theoretical and/or empirical connections. Due every Monday by 5 P.M. PRIOR to our class meeting – so that we all have sufficient time to read them in preparation for our class meetings. Please upload your memos onto Sakai (in Resources, Weekly Memos).

I will not grade these memos although I will keep a record of your timely submission. You can take two exemptions from writing these memos. Email me by the deadline and indicate that you are opting out. Failure to submit the minimum number of memos in a timely manner will result in a grade no higher than a “C” for the course.

2) Reading Summaries in Class: Each week, students will provide brief (3 minutes) summaries of the readings. Depending on the number of students in the course, you will present several summaries.

3) Research paper: I realize that many of you are at various stages of your training. For those of you at the start of your research, I encourage you to develop a research proposal or critical paper

that evaluates the central issues of this course. Please see me early to get recommendations on additional readings. Those of you who have already begun research on related themes for qualifying papers or dissertation research are encouraged to write a paper that engages the course materials while extending your research agenda. There are two parts to this assignment.

PART I: You must submit a five-page proposal for the final assignment with a bibliography. PROPOSAL IS DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON MARCH 10.

PART II: Final research paper with full references. I anticipate the final assignment will be at least 20 (but no more than 30) pages long, not including references. FINAL PAPER IS DUE IN MY MAILBOX ON THURSDAY MAY 7 AT 3:00 P.M.

To guide you in developing a paper proposal (for this class and beyond), we will spend some time looking at how to develop research questions. We will also read some exemplar proposals. I encourage you to use this course and time to work toward a paper, dissertation, or grant proposal.

## READINGS

Half of the course readings are available on the class website through Sakai in the “Resources” folder. These are denoted below with **S**. For books from which I require more than two chapters, I ask that you borrow them from the library or purchase them online. I will make some of these books available at Kilmer Library Reserves.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Week 1: January 20

*Introduction*

### Week 2: January 27

*Power and the state*

Marx, Karl. 1974. “Introduction” and “The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte” in *Karl Marx: Political Writings, Vol. II: Surveys from Exile*, edited by David Fernbach. New York: Viking. (pp. 7-24, 146-156, 234-249) **S**

Weber, Max. 1991 [1948]. *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, edited by Hans H. Gerth and C. Wright Mills with Preface by Bryan S. Turner. New York: Routledge. (pp. 159-195: “Structures of Power” and “Class, Status, Party”; Skim rest of Part II) (These selections are widely available in various Weber collections, including *Economy and Society*) **S (159-195 only)**

Lukes, Steven. 1974. *Power: A Radical View*. London: MacMillan. (pp. 9-25, 36-45) **S**

Foucault, Michel. 1990. “On Power” in *Politics, Philosophy, Culture: Interviews and Other Writings, 1977-1984*. New York: Routledge. (pp. 101-107) **S**

Week 3: February 3

*Rise of the modern state*

Tilly, Charles. 1990. *Coercion, Capital and European States, AD 990-1990*. Cambridge: Basil Blackwell. (Chs. 1, 2, and 3)

Ertman, Thomas. 1997. *Birth of the Leviathan. Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 1) S

Mann, Michael. 1993. *The Sources of Social Power. Vol. II: The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Ch. 3) S

Week 4: February 10

*Cultural foundations and symbolic power of state formation*

Gorski, Philip S. (2003). *The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs 1, 2, and 3)

Loveman, Mara. 2005. "The Modern State and the Primitive Accumulation of Symbolic Power." *American Journal of Sociology* 110(6): 1651-83. S

Week 5: February 17

*Development of the welfare state*

Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Chs. 2 and 5) S

Noble, Charles. 1997. *Welfare as We Knew It: A Political History of the American Welfare State*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Introduction, Chs. 1 and 2) S

Quadagno, Jill. 1988. *The Transformation of Old Age Security: Class and Politics in the American Welfare State*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs. 1 and 8) S

Orloff, Ann Shola and Theda Skocpol. 1984. "Why Not Equal Protection? Explaining the Politics of Public Social Spending in Britain, 1900-1911, and the United States, 1880s-1920," *American Sociological Review* 49(6): 726-750. S

Offe, Claus. "Some Contradictions of the Modern Welfare State" in *Contradictions of the Welfare State*, pp. 147-161. Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press. S

Week 6: February 24

*Gender and the state*

Scott, Joan Wallach. 1999. *Gender and the Politics of History, Revised Edition*. New York: Columbia University Press. (Introduction, Chs. 1 and 2)

Pateman, Carole. 1988. *The Sexual Contract*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press. (Ch. 1) S

MacKinnon, Catherine. 1989. *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, pp. 237-249. S

Sapiro, Virginia. 1990. "The Gender Basis of American Social Policy" in *Women, the State, and Welfare*, edited by Linda Gordon. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press. S

Mink, Gwendolyn. 1990. "The Lady and the Tramp: Gender, Race, and the Origins of the American Welfare State" in *Women, the State, and Welfare*. S

Piven, Frances Fox. 1990 "Ideology and the State: Women, Power, and the Welfare State" in *Women, the State, and Welfare*. S

Week 7: March 3

*The racial state*

Omi, Michael and Howard Winant. 1994. *Racial Formation in the United States from the 1960s to the 1990s, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* London: Routledge. (Introduction, Chs. 4 and 5).

Goldberg, David Theo. 2002. *The Racial State*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. (Introduction, Chs. 4 and 5; Skim Chs. 6 and Conclusion)

Week 8: March 10 \*\*\*PROPOSAL DUE\*\*\*

*Nationalism*

Calhoun, Crag. 1998. *Nationalism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota (Chs. 1, 2, and 4)

Hobsbawm, Eric. 1990. *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (Ch. 3) S

Anderson, Benedict. 1991. *Imagined Communities*. New York: Verso. (Chs. 1 and 3) S

Hobsbawm, Eric. 1983. "The Invention of Tradition" in *The Invention of Tradition*, edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. S

Trevor-Roper, Hugh. 1983. "The Invention of Tradition: The Highland Tradition of Scotland" in *The Invention of Tradition*. S

Week 9: March 17

*Spring Break*

Week 10: March 24

*Democracy*

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 2000. *Democracy in America*, translated by Harvey C. Mansfield and Delba Winthrop. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Ch. 9) S

Moore, Barrington, Jr. 1996. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon. (Preface and Ch. 7) S

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1963. *Political Man: The Social Bases of Politics*. New York: Anchor. (Ch. 3) S

Rueschemeyer, Dietrich, Evelyne Huber Stephens, and John D. Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Ch. 4) S

Week 11: March 31

*Collective upheavals and revolutions*

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, (Ch 1) S

Goldstone, Jack A. 1991. *Revolution and Rebellion in the Early Modern World*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Preface, Ch. 1) S

Goodwin, Jeff, 2001. *No Other Way Out. States and Revolutionary Movements, 1945-1991*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Part 1; Skim Part 4)

Sewell, William H. Jr. 1985. "Ideologies and Social Revolutions: Reflections on the French Case," *Journal of Modern History* 57: 56-85. S

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

Week 12: April 7

*Social movements*

McAdam, Douglas. 1999 [1982]. *Political Process and the development of Black Insurgency 1930-1970*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press. (Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, and 3)

Polletta, F. 2006. *It Was Like a Fever: Storytelling in Protest and Politics*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs. 1, 2, and 3; Skim rest)

Mische, Ann. 2007. *Partisan Publics: Communication and Contention across Brazilian Youth Activist Networks*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (Prologue, Chs. 1, 2, and 6)

Week 13: April 14

*Political organization and behavior*

Clemens, Elisabeth S. 1997. *The People's Lobby: Organizational Innovation and the Rise of Interest Group Politics in the United States, 1890-1925*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press). (Prologue, Chs. 1, 2, and 6)

Mansbridge, Jane J. 1986. *Why We Lost the ERA*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (pp. 1-28). S

Theda Skocpol. 1992. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. (Introduction, Part III)

Week 14: April 21

*No Class*

Week 15: April 28

*Political culture and civic engagement*

Putnam, Robert. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital." *Journal of Democracy* 6(1): 65-78. S

Kaufman, Jason. 2002. *For the Common Good? American Civic Life and the Golden Age of Fraternity*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Introduction and Ch. 4) S

Eliasoph, Nina. 1998. *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life*. New York: Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 1, 5, 6, 8, and 9)

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