

Sociological Analysis II: Political Sociology

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Autumn 2021

Instructor: Dr. Kerice Doten-Snitker

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Pronouns: she/ella

Class: Tuesdays, 10:00-13:00, 18.1.A01

Office Hours: online, by appointment

Course website: Aula Global

Course Overview

Course Description

Political sociology is a study of power – who has it, why, what they do with it, how its distribution and execution changes over time, and what other effects it has. Effectively, it is a study of social order – where it comes from, how it is enforced, and who or what it is enforced by. Political sociology is wide-ranging, far beyond what we can cover in one course. Consider this to be tapas of political sociology.

We'll start with that question of where social order and regulation comes from by starting with the topic of social groups. After a holiday break, we move on to discussing the relationships between individuals, groups, organizations, and the state. Then, we spend a week each on the topics of parties, class, space, organizations, and contemporary (: digital) organizing.

This course is concurrent with your research seminar and advanced quantitative methods course. We will try to complement those by focusing on scholarly conversation. Our in-class discussion and your assignments are designed to help you practice and become more comfortable with assessing a scholarly field and joining it as an interlocutor.

Required Materials

All readings or other materials will be available through the course website on Aula Global or else linked to where they are hosted freely on the internet.

Course Policies

Course Requirements

Your grade will be allocated as follows:

1. Discussion preparation (10%): Weekly “quizzes” about the assigned material must be completed by Mondays at 23:59. You must submit at least one discussion question per assigned material. You should do this for 10 of the 12 weeks we will meet.
2. Participation in class (10%): You are expected to contribute to discussion during the scheduled class time.
3. Forum participation (10%): After class, you will respond to weekly materials and discussion in the class forum. In a paragraph, describe (1) something you found thought-provoking; or (2) something that felt confirmed about your theoretical understanding; or (3) your agreement/disagreement with something a classmate brought up. Formalize what you learned that week. Again, you should do this for 10 of the 12 weeks we will meet.

4. Presentation in class (30%): Each student will present a 12-15 minute theoretical argument about a topic in politics. The topic must be discussed with Dr. Doten-Snitker in office hours (week 5).
5. Final paper (40%): Students will draft an essay on that same topic, participate in a peer review process (10% review, 5% response), and then submit a revised essay (25%).

All times and dates are local time in Getafe: GMT +1:00.

Course Communication

A variety of situations might require me to change the course agenda or requirements. I will communicate via course website and/or email and in class with you to update you on upcoming assignments or agenda changes.

Classroom Behavior

Please be respectful of others' questions, responses, and opinions. As our discussions are about discovering the material together on a deeper level, remember that it is important to contribute in a way that makes other students feel that their learning, participation, and input are valued.

Our class time will be unusual during this season of the covid-19 pandemic. You are expected to follow university guidelines: <https://www.uc3m.es/covid19/home>.

Access and Accommodations

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), please share what accommodations would be helpful to you so that we can plan together for how you can be successful. Making a good plan will not require you to share your private health information with me.

If you are in quarantine or isolation due to Covid-19, please inform me of the situation using the university form. If you are under other travel restrictions, please contact me.

Late Assignments

If you cannot meet a deadline due to medical or family emergency or religious observance, please contact me as soon as possible so that we may work out an alternative schedule of due dates and times.

Course Outline and Readings

| | Readings/Materials | Assignments |
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| Week 1: Groups 14 Sept | | |
| | Tilly, Charles. 1998. <i>Durable Inequality</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press. *Ch 1-3 only* | |
| Week 2: Groups, continued 21 Sept | | |
| | Fine, Gary Alan. 2014. "The Hinge: Civil Society, Group Culture, and the Interaction Order." <i>Social Psychology Quarterly</i> 77(1):5-26. | |

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| <p>Hechter, Michael. 1987. <i>Principles of Group Solidarity</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press. *Ch 1-3 only*</p> | |
| <p>Week 3: Groups, continued 28 Sept</p> | |
| <p>Fields, Karen E., and Barbara Jeanne Fields. 2014. <i>Racecraft: The Soul of Inequality in American Life</i>. Verso Books. Pp. 1-74, 225-261.</p> | |
| <p>Week 4: Groups, continued 5 Oct</p> | |
| <p>Du Bois, W. E. B. 2006. "The Negro and the Warsaw Ghetto (1949)." <i>Raisons Politiques</i> No 21(1):131–35.</p> <p>Thomas, James M. 2020. "Du Bois, Double Consciousness, and the 'Jewish Question.'" <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 43(8):1333–56.</p> <p>Mayrl, Damon. 2019. "Negotiating the Politics of Diversity: A Symposium on Rogers Brubaker's Grounds for Difference." <i>Social Science History</i> 43(2):365–68.</p> <p>Koenig, Matthias. 2019. "Reconfiguring Cultural Differences." <i>Social Science History</i> 43(2):369–78.</p> <p>Schmidt, Volker H. 2019. "The Last Bastion of Categorical Inequality?" <i>Social Science History</i> 43(2):379–85.</p> <p>Morning, Ann. 2019. "Scholarly Debates and Their Societal Backdrops." <i>Social Science History</i> 43(2):387–92.</p> <p>Brubaker, Rogers. 2019. "Reply." <i>Social Science History</i> 43(2):399–404.</p> | |
| <p>Week 5: NO CLASS - Holiday 12 Oct</p> | |
| | <p>Individual meetings to discuss essay topics</p> |
| <p>Week 6: State and society 19 Oct</p> | |
| <p>Mayrl, Damon, and Sarah Quinn. 2016. "Defining the State from Within." <i>Sociological Theory</i> 34(1):1–26.</p> <p>Erikson, Emily. 2020. "State–Merchant Relations and Economic Thought: The Dutch Republic and England, 1580–1720." <i>Socio-Economic Review</i> 00(0):1-21.</p> <p>Mora, G. Cristina. 2014. "Cross-Field Effects and Ethnic Classification: The Institutionalization of Hispanic Panethnicity, 1965 to 1990." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 79(2):183–210.</p> | |

Week 7: State and society, continued 26 Oct

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| <p>Burstein, Paul. 2021. "Testing Theories about Advocacy and Public Policy." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 19(1):148–59.</p> <p>Hummel, Calla. 2017. "Disobedient Markets: Street Vendors, Enforcement, and State Intervention in Collective Action." <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> 50(11):1524–55.</p> <p>Menjívar, Cecilia, and Sarah M. Lakhani. 2016. "Transformative Effects of Immigration Law: Immigrants' Personal and Social Metamorphoses through Regularization." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 121(6):1818–55.</p> | |
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Week 8: States abroad 2 Nov

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| <p>Go, Julian, and Jake Watson. 2019. "Anticolonial Nationalism: From Imagined Communities to Colonial Conflict." <i>European Journal of Sociology / Archives Européennes de Sociologie</i> 60(1):31–68.</p> <p>Quisumbing King, Katrina. 2019. "Recentring U.S. Empire: A Structural Perspective on the Color Line." <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i> 5(1):11–25.</p> <p>Steinmetz, George. 2008. "The Colonial State as a Social Field: Ethnographic Capital and Native Policy in the German Overseas Empire before 1914." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 73(4):589–612.</p> | <p>Presentations</p> |
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Week 9: Parties 9 Nov

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| <p>De Leon, Cedric, Manali Desai, and Cihan Tuğal. 2009. "Political Articulation: Parties and the Constitution of Cleavages in the United States, India, and Turkey." <i>Sociological Theory</i> 27(3):193–219.</p> <p>Mudge, Stephanie L., and Anthony S. Chen. 2014. "Political Parties and the Sociological Imagination: Past, Present, and Future Directions." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 40(1):305–30.</p> | <p>Presentations</p> |
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Week 10: Class 16 Nov

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| <p>Garrido, Marco Z. 2019. <i>The Patchwork City</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Selections TBD.</p> <p>Gould, Roger V. 1993. "Trade Cohesion, Class Unity, and Urban Insurrection: Artisanal</p> | <p>Share essay drafts with peer reviewers</p> |
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| | <p>Activism in the Paris Commune.” <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 98(4):721–54.</p> | |
| Week 11: Space 23 Nov | | |
| | <p>Astor, Avi. 2012. “Memory, Community, and Opposition to Mosques: The Case of Badalona.” <i>Theory and Society</i> 41(4):325–49.</p> <p>Braun, Robert. 2021. “Bloodlines: National Border Crossings and Antisemitism in Weimar Germany.”</p> <p>Nelson, Laura K. 2021. “Cycles of Conflict, a Century of Continuity: The Impact of Persistent Place-Based Political Logics on Social Movement Strategy.” <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 127(1):1–59.</p> | |
| Week 12: Organizations 30 Nov | | |
| | <p>Luft, Aliza. 2020. “Religion in Vichy France: How Meso-Level Actors Contribute to Authoritarian Legitimation.” <i>European Journal of Sociology / Archives Européennes de Sociologie</i> 61(1):67–101.</p> <p>Riley, Dylan. 2005. “Civic Associations and Authoritarian Regimes in Interwar Europe: Italy and Spain in Comparative Perspective.” <i>American Sociological Review</i> 70(2):288–310.</p> <p>Velasco, Kristopher. 2018. “Human Rights INGOs, LGBT INGOs, and LGBT Policy Diffusion, 1991–2015.” <i>Social Forces</i> 97(1):377–404.</p> | Peer review reports due |
| Week 13: NO CLASS - Holiday 7 Dec | | |
| Week 14: Online/Offline 14 Dec | | |
| | <p>Caren, Neal, Kenneth T. Andrews, and Todd Lu. 2020. “Contemporary Social Movements in a Hybrid Media Environment.” <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 46(1):443–65.</p> <p>Schradie, Jen. 2018. “The Digital Activism Gap: How Class and Costs Shape Online Collective Action.” <i>Social Problems</i> 65(1):51–74.</p> <p>Hsiao, Yuan. 2018. “Understanding Digital Natives in Contentious Politics: Explaining the Effect of Social Media on Protest Participation through Psychological Incentives.” <i>New Media & Society</i> 20(9):3457–78.</p> | <p>Course feedback and evaluation</p> <p>Peer review response letter + Final essay</p> |

Assignments

Presentation (30% of grade)

In weeks 8 and 9, students will present scholarly arguments about political phenomena. In week 5 (or thereabouts), you should meet with Dr. Doten-Snitker to discuss your topic. The presentation should showcase your understanding of the scholarly theoretical debates about your topic. Put the ideas in context and in conversation. Develop your own position, and imagine others' responses. You are welcome to draw on the history of social thought, scholarly lineages, and the impact of events or experiences on how you and others theorize. Take the book symposium essays in week 4 as your model and inspiration. Perhaps this is an opportunity to focus on the theoretical argument of your thesis, or a related topic.

Final paper and related assignments (40% of grade)

The presentation should be the basis for the first draft of your essay. Eventually, the final version should be about 2100-3000 words, or about 7-10 pages, excluding references. You should work on refining your sense of the scholarly landscape and how you (re)configure it to your own ends. In week 10 we will discuss the peer review process. You will share your first draft with two peers (to be assigned, cc Dr. Doten-Snitker) by 19 Nov (that Friday). You will then write two peer review reports for other students' essays, due 3 Dec by email to those students and to Dr. Doten-Snitker. Your final essay and peer review response are due together, on 17 Dec, by email.