Political Sociology

Course Description

An examination of social structure and politics: state creation and the growth of democracy, alignment and cleavage structure, ideology and values, party systems and voting, state and economy, political participation, legitimation and alienation, and protest and revolution. Case studies include: industrialism and working-class politics, the rise of Nazism in Germany, and party realignment in America.

LSU Description

SOCL 4421 Political Sociology (3)
Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Social structure and politics.

Required Reading will come from the following books:


Jan-Erik Lane and Svante O. Ersson, Politics and Society in Western Europe, Fourth Edition (Sage, 1999). ISBN 0761958622

Other Required Material:

Some additional articles and selections from books are required, as indicated in the weekly assignments. Some further required articles and materials will be available on or through my teaching web site – http://www.rickweil.com/s4421/ – changes in assignments may also be made on the web site. The course lecture notes (not required) will also be available on my web site.

Recommended Reading:


Course Requirements:

Attendance at lectures, a midterm exam, and a final exam. You will be responsible for all readings, lecture information, and assigned materials on the course web site, including any updates at www.fweil.com. You should also be familiar with the materials in the “2016 Election” at www.fweil.com/Elections/2016/Election2016.html (incl the Facebook page, “Polit Soc,” https://www.facebook.com/polit.soc), and “Trend Charts,” sections of the website. There will be several unannounced quizzes that may account for up to 10% of the grade. The course will consist partly of lectures and readings and partly of discussion. Students should always have read the assignments and come prepared for discussion.
Grade Scale:

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<th>Score Range</th>
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<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>93-96</td>
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<td>90-92</td>
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Note: Updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on my website: [www.fweil.com](http://www.fweil.com), under the link for Sociology 4421. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information. My lecture notes and other helpful materials are available on my website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.
Assignments

PART I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Week 1.  **Smith and Marx on Class Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 2.

Week 2.  **Weber on State Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 3.

Week 3.  **Tocqueville, Durkheim, & Parsons on Civil Society, Functionalism, and Pluralism.**

Read Orum, ch. 4.

**Background Reading for Weeks 1-3:**

Orum, ch. 1; Lane and Ersson, Introduction and ch. 1; LeDuc, Introduction.

PART II: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND POLITICS

Week 4.  **State Creation.**

a. Centralized States  
b. Growth of Democracy

Read Orum, ch. 6, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Gandhi.  
Also:


Week 5. **Alignment and Cleavage Structure.**

Read Dalton, ch. 8; Lane and Ersson, ch. 2.

Week 6. **Ideology and Values.**

Read Dalton, ch. 2, 5, 6; Lane and Ersson, ch. 9.

Week 7. **Party Systems and Voting.**

Read Dalton, ch. 7, 9, 10; LeDuc, chapters by Gallagher, Kitschelt, LeDuc/Niemi, Powell; Orum, ch. 9; Lane and Ersson, ch. 3-5.

Week 8. **State and Economy.**

a. Welfare State
b. Capitalism and Democracy
c. Neo-Corporatism

Read Janoski, ch. 22, 25; Lane and Ersson, ch. 6, 7, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Kayser; Orum, ch. 7.

Week 9. **Political Participation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 3, 4; LeDuc, chapter by Hooghe; Orum, ch. 13.


*Recommended:* Film clips at [http://www.lsu.edu/fweil/KatrinaDocumentary](http://www.lsu.edu/fweil/KatrinaDocumentary)
Week 10. **Legitimation and Alienation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 12; LeDuc, chapter by Norris; Also:


*Recommended:* Russell J Dalton, *The Apartisan American*

Week 11. **Protest and Revolution.**

Read Orum, ch. 10; Lane and Ersson, ch. 10.

**PART III: THREE CASE STUDIES**

Week 12. **Industrialism and Working-Class Politics.**


Week 13. **Nazism in Germany.**

Week 14. **Party Realignment in America.**

Read: Abramson, et al., Introduction, Ch. 3-6, 8, 10-11.

Read the outline of party realignment on the course web site.
