

Political Sociology: Graduate Seminar

Sociology 811

Fall 2019

Professor Kenneth (Andy) Andrews

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Schedule: Thursday 2:00-4:30

Room: Hamilton 151

Office Hours: by appointment

Course website: https://sakai.unc.edu/portal/site/political_sociology

Course Description

This course examines the field of political sociology including programmatic statements of theorists and recent debates in the field. In this class we will examine core questions about power, politics and the state from a sociological perspective. The course will introduce you to the major theories, methods and analytic strategies within the field of political sociology as a basis for conducting your own research.

We begin the course by analyzing theories of power and the state including the development and transformation of modern states and democratization. Next, we will examine policy regimes and policy formation including welfare systems, economic policy and regulation, and social policies. Finally, we will focus on political culture, civic actors, communication, and identities. Major topics include political discourse and public opinion, voting, political parties and social movements. Throughout the course, a wide range of empirical cases will be covered including the state and economy, revolution and warfare, the welfare state, social inequality and policy, democracy and political participation, social movements and interest groups.

Course Format and Requirements

Class meetings will be organized as seminar discussions. Major requirements are: (1) weekly reading notes, (2) co-leading discussion, and (3) a final paper.

Your weekly reading notes will be posted to sakai each week by Wednesday at 10pm. These may include summary/highlights from the reading, but should go beyond this to include your reflections on the strengths and weaknesses of materials, connections among readings, extensions to materials from outside the class and so forth. I will circulate reading questions for each class session that can be a jumping off point for your notes. You may use whatever format works for you (narrative, outline, etc.). These notes will help everyone bring more focus to our discussions and provide materials you can build on for comprehensive exams, teaching in this area, or to revisit readings in your future work.

Two students will be responsible for preparing a brief set of comments responding to those questions to get discussion started, and we will meet to coordinate our plan prior to the assigned class meetings. For class meetings, I will take a few minutes at the beginning of class to comment on the week's themes and topics with an eye toward locating our reading in the broader field. It often works best to divide the class into two or more sections with students introducing different themes and questions for discussion. These

comments might include critical observations, identification of further questions to pursue, reflections on the applicability of concepts and theories in the reading to other cases, and so forth. Your comments should focus attention on key analytic questions and areas for debate and discussion. Each student will comment on readings for three class sessions during the semester.

In addition to the reading notes and discussions, the other major requirement is a final paper/proposal. Your paper will be developed through an initial proposal sketching your plan (due Monday, September 16th), an initial draft on October 15th, and a final version due at the end of the semester. You may choose one of several formats: (1) a research proposal, (2) review essay, or (3) empirical paper. Over the semester everyone will have a chance to present on their project and research plans and gain feedback from the class.

Course grades will be based on class participation and reading notes throughout the semester (1/3), leading discussion/presentations (1/3), and the final paper (1/3).

Academic Integrity

Your participation in this course is covered by the [UNC Honor Code](#). If you have questions about any forms of academic dishonesty please see me, and I will be happy to clarify. The UNC Writing Center has a handout that describes what plagiarism is, why it should be avoided, and how to avoid it available [here](#).

Reading

Wimmer, Andreas. 2018. *Nation Building: Why Some Countries Come Together While Others Fall Apart*. Princeton University Press.

Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens and John Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Gretta Krippner. 2011. *Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Paschel, Tianna. 2018. *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil*. Princeton University Press.

If you are looking for a book-length overview of the field, I would recommend Elisabeth Clemens, *What is Political Sociology?* (Polity, 2016) and Kate Nash *Contemporary Political Sociology* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010). There are a couple handbooks that have chapter length review essays covering the main areas in political sociology: Edwin Amenta et al, *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology* (2012) and Thomas Janoski et al *The Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Civil Societies, and Globalization* (2005). Finally, take a look at the ASA's Political Sociology [section website](#) for discussion of recent work, lists of award-winning scholarship, and debates in the section newsletter.

SCHEDULE

Week 1 - Aug 22

Power and politics

- Gaventa, John. 1980. "Power and Participation" in *Power and Powerlessness*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.
- Hochschild, Arlie Russell. "Preface" and "The Deep Story" in *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*. The New Press, 2018.
- Gilens, Martin, and Benjamin I. Page. "Testing Theories of American Politics: Elites, Interest Groups, and Average Citizens." *Perspectives on Politics* 12, no. 3 (2014): 564–581.

Further reading:

- Mills, C. Wright. *The Power Elite*. Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 3-29.
- Lipset, Seymour Martin. "The Radical Right: A Problem for American Democracy." *The British Journal of Sociology* 6, no. 2 (1955): 176–209.

Week 2 - Aug 29

States, empires and nation-states

- Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research" in *Bringing the State Back In*, P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, and T. Skocpol (eds.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tilly, Charles. 1992. *Coercion, Capital and European States* Cambridge: Blackwell. (Chs. 1-4)
- Loveman, Mara. 2005. "The Modern State and the Primitive Accumulation of Symbolic Power." *American Journal of Sociology* 110(6):1651–1683.

Further Reading:

- Alford, Robert and Roger Friedland, 1985. *Powers of Theory* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chs. 1, 2, 7, 12)
- Scott, James C. *Seeing like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. Yale University Press, 1998.
- Auyero, Javier. 2007. "The Gray Zone" in *Routine Politics and Violence in Argentina* NY: Cambridge University Press.

Week 3 - Sep 5

Nation building

- Wimmer, Andreas. *Nation Building: Why Some Countries Come Together While Others Fall Apart*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2018.

Further Reading:

- Mann, Michael. *The Sources of Social Power, Volume II, The Rise of Classes and Nation-States, 1760-1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Week 4 - Sep 12

Democratization

- Dietrich Rueschemeyer, Evelyne Huber Stephens and John Stephens. 1992. *Capitalist Development and Democracy*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chs. 1-5)
- Paxton, Pamela. "Social Capital and Democracy: An Interdependent Relationship." *American Sociological Review* 67 (2002): 254–77.

Kadivar, Mohammad Ali. "Mass Mobilization and the Durability of New Democracies." *American Sociological Review* 83, no. 2 (2018): 390–417.

Further reading:

Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1994. "The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited: 1993 Presidential Address." *American Sociological Review* 59(1):1–22.

Week 5 - Sep 19

Populism

McVeigh, Rory and Kevin Estep. 2019. *The Politics of Losing: Trump, the Klan, and the Mainstreaming of Resentment*. Columbia University Press.

Bonikowski, Bart and Paul DiMaggio. 2016. "Varieties of American Popular Nationalism." *American Sociological Review* 81(5):949–980.

Further reading:

Foa, Roberto Stefan and Yascha Mounk. 2017. "The Signs of Deconsolidation." *Journal of Democracy* 28(1):5–15.

Jansen, Robert S. 2011. "Populist Mobilization: A New Theoretical Approach to Populism." *Sociological Theory* 29(2):75–96.

Müller, Jan-Werner. 2017. *What Is Populism?* Penguin UK.

Week 6 - Sep 26

Welfare States and Social Policy

John Myles and Jill Quadagno, "Political Theories of the Welfare State," *Social Service Review*, Vol. 76, 2002, pp. 34-57.

Brady, David, Agnes Blome, and Hanna Kleider. 2016. "How Politics and Institutions Shape Poverty and Inequality." *The Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Poverty* 117-140.

Brady, David and Amie Bostic. 2015. "Paradoxes of Social Policy: Welfare Transfers, Relative Poverty, and Redistribution Preferences." *American Sociological Review* 80(2):268–298.

Thelen, Kathleen. 2012. "Varieties of Capitalism: Trajectories of Liberalization and the New Politics of Social Solidarity." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15:137–159.

Misra, Joya and Mary Bernstein. 2019. "Sexuality, Gender, and Social Policy" *The New Handbook of Political Sociology*

Further Reading:

Gosta Esping-Andersen. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

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.

Brady, David and Ryan Finnigan. 2014. "Does Immigration Undermine Public Support for Social Policy?" *American Sociological Review* 79(1):17–42.

Cybelle Fox. 2010. "Three Worlds of Relief: Race, Immigration, and Public and Private Social Welfare Spending in American Cities, 1929." *American Journal of Sociology* 116(2):453-502.

Week 7 - Oct 3

Voters, parties, and civil society

- Lipset, Seymour Martin and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments: An Introduction." in *Party Systems and Voter Alignments*. New York: Free Press.
- Hout, Michael et al. 1995. "The Democratic Class Struggle in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 60:805-828.
- De Leon, Cedric, Manali Desai, and Cihan Tuğal. 2009. "Political Articulation: Parties and the Constitution of Cleavages in the United States, India, and Turkey." *Sociological Theory* 27(3):193–219.
- Evan Schofer and Marion Fourcade-Gourinchas. 2001. "The Structural Contexts of Civil Engagement: Voluntary Association Membership in Comparative Perspective." *American Sociological Review* 66:806-828.
- Pacewicz, Josh. 2015. "Playing the Neoliberal Game: Why Community Leaders Left Party Politics to Partisan Activists." *American Journal of Sociology* 121(3):826–881.
- Klein, Steven and Cheol-Sung Lee. 2019. "Towards a Dynamic Theory of Civil Society: The Politics of Forward and Backward Infiltration." *Sociological Theory* 37(1):62–88.

Further reading:

- De Leon, Cedric, Manali Desai, and Cihan Tuğal. 2015. *Building Blocs: How Parties Organize Society*. Stanford University Press.

Week 8 - Oct 10

** We will not meet at the regular time. We'll schedule a meetings (likely Monday, October 7) for brief presentations and discussion of your papers. **

Fall Break - Oct 17

Week 9 - Oct 24

Protest and Social Movements

- Walder, Andrew G., "Political Sociology and Social Movements." *Annual Review of Sociology* 34 (2009): 393-412.
- Piven, Frances Fox. "Can Power from below Change the World?" *American Sociological Review* 73, no. 1 (2008): 1–14.
- Andrews, Kenneth T. 2001. "Social Movements and Policy Implementation: The Mississippi Civil Rights Movement and the War on Poverty, 1965-1971." *American Sociological Review* 66:71–95.
- Ayoub, Phillip. 2016. *When States Come Out*. Cambridge University Press, Chs 2 and 3.

Week 10 - Oct 31

Political Culture, Discourse, and Identities

- William Gamson. *Talking Politics*. NY: Cambridge University Press, Chs. 1 and 8.
- Sobieraj, Sarah and Jeffrey Berry. (2011). "From Incivility to Outrage: Political Discourse in Blogs, Talk Radio, and Cable News." *Political Communication* 28 1:19-41
- Lichterman, Paul, and Nina Eliasoph. "Civic Action." *American Journal of Sociology* 120, no. 3 (2014): 798–863.
- Jeff Manza and Clem Brooks. 2012. "How Sociology Lost Public Opinion." *Sociological Theory* 30:89-113.

Week 11 - Nov 7

States, Markets, and Financialization

Gretta Krippner. 2011. *Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Fligstein, Neil. "Markets as Politics: A Political-Cultural Approach to Market Institutions." *American Sociological Review*, 1996, 656–673.

Week 12 - Nov 14

Race, Identity, and Politics

Paschel, Tianna S. *Becoming Black Political Subjects: Movements and Ethno-Racial Rights in Colombia and Brazil*. Princeton University Press, 2016.

Further reading:

Brown, Hana E. 2013. "Racialized Conflict and Policy Spillover Effects: The Role of Race in the Contemporary US Welfare State." *American Journal of Sociology* 119(2):394–443.

Hechter, Michael and Dina Okamoto. 2001. "Political Consequences of Minority Group Formation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1):189–215.

Loveman, Mara. 2014. *National Colors: Racial Classification and the State in Latin America*. Oxford University Press, USA.

Okamoto, Dina G. 2003. "Toward a Theory of Panethnicity: Explaining Asian American Collective Action." *American Sociological Review* 68:811–842.

Week 13 - Nov 21

There are many, many vibrant areas of research in political sociology beyond those included so far. I've left this last session open for us to decide on a common topic for the final regular class. Possibilities include policing, crime and incarceration, gender and sexuality, religion, citizenship, political demography, colonial and post-colonial states, and global and transnational institutions and processes.

Thanksgiving Week – No Class

Final Meeting – We'll hold a final meeting over dinner during the exam period for everyone to share presentations on their paper, get feedback from the class, and celebrate the end of the semester.