

Fall 2017
TuTh 12:30-2pm
Kroeber 160

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SOC 140
POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

Course description: This course focuses on the interaction between politics and society. We will look at different forms of politics including voting, social movements, party politics, state policies, direct democratic action, religious mobilization, and revolution. We will discuss whether, how, and why each of these forms of political action impact social change. We will ask whether some are more influential ways of bringing about change than others. We will explore these questions in different contexts including the United States, Europe, China, and the Middle East. We will study both historical examples and contemporary cases based on sociological perspectives.

Evaluation:

There will be three take-home examinations (5 double-spaced pages for the midterm, 6 for the final). You will write one research paper. Section discussions also constitute a part of the final grade.

Midterms (September 28; October 26): 30%
Final (December 14): 20%
Research paper (December 4): 30%
Section participation: 20%

Required texts: The reader is available at Copy Central (on 2576 Bancroft Way).

The research paper

The goal of the research paper is applying the perspectives we have learned to actual cases. You will pick one revolution, movement, or country and discuss it within the context of the theories. You can, for example, take one theory and discuss why it works better in the case you have chosen than other plausible theories (you do not have to cover all the theories we have learned). You can also seek to combine the insights of two or more theories.

You will have to build the argument you develop in this paper on additional research. This means that you have to read additional articles and books about the revolution, movement, or country of your choice and refer to these in your paper (along with the articles and books covered in class).

In early November, you will hand in a research proposal that will outline your argument and provide a provisional bibliography (1 double-spaced page, not counting the bibliography). The final paper will be double-spaced, and a maximum of 9-10 pages (including the bibliography).

I. CLASS, RACE, AND MOBILIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Week 1: Voting in America

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. 2000. *Why Americans still don't Vote*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp. 23-71, 108-36.

Week 2: Class, slavery, and party

Moore, Barrington, Jr. 1966. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston: Beacon Press. Pp. 413-432.

de Leon, Cedric. 2008. "'No Bourgeois Mass Party, No Democracy': The Missing Link in Barrington Moore's American Civil War." *Political Power and Social Theory* 19: 39-82.

Week 3: The New Deal

Eidlin, Barry. 2016. "Why is There No Labor Party in the United States? Political Articulation and the Canadian Comparison, 1932-1948." *American Sociological Review* 81(3):488-516.

Davis, Mike. 1980. "The Barren Marriage of American Labour and the Democratic Party." *New Left Review* 124: 43-84.

Week 4: Beyond class and race? New Social Movements and the media

Gitlin, Todd. 2003. *The Whole World Is Watching: Mass Media in the Making and Unmaking of the New Left*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 146-246.

II. SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS

Week 5: Paris Commune

Merriman, John. 2014. *Massacre: The Life and Death of the Paris Commune*. Basic Books; Yale University Press. Pp. 1-18; 39-65 (skim); 66-96; 250-255.

Marx, Karl. 1978 [1871]. "The Civil War in France," in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Robert C. Tucker (ed.). Pp. 629-642.

Week 6: The Russian revolutions of 1917

Carr, Edward. *The Bolshevik Revolution, Vol. 1*. Pp. 45-123, 130-135.

Week 7: Comparative analysis of revolutions

Skocpol, Theda. 1979. *States and Social Revolutions*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Pp. 3-43, 284-293.

Burawoy, Michael. 1989. "Two methods in search of science: Skocpol vs. Trotsky." *Theory and Society* 18/6: 759-805.

Week 8: The Chinese revolution

Dirlik, Arif. 1991. *Anarchism in the Chinese revolution*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Andreas, Joel. 2007. "The Structure of Charismatic Mobilization: A Case Study of Rebellion During the Chinese Cultural Revolution." *American Sociological Review* 72/3: 434-458.

III: THE 2008-2013 REVOLT WAVE: FAILURE OF THE LEFT, RISE OF THE RIGHT

Week 9: Occupy Wall Street

Gould-Wartofsky, Michael A. 2015. *The Occupiers: The Making of the 99 Percent Movement*. New York: Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-35, 54, 59-85, 209-228.

Weeks 10: The Arab Spring and Gezi

Tuğal, Cihan. 2016. *The Fall of the Turkish Model: How the Arab Uprisings Brought Down Islamic Liberalism*. London: Verso. Pp. 1-4, 19-24, 152-164, 196-218, 222-234, 249-265.

Possibly Week 11: ISIS

Coburn, Patrick. 2015. *The Rise of Islamic State: ISIS and the New Sunni Revolution*. London: Verso. Pp. 1-10, 79-95, 135-150.

Englund, Scott and Michael Stohl. 2016. "Violent Political Movements: Comparing the Shining Path to the Islamic State." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 10/4: 21-31.

Stepanova, Ekaterina. 2016. "Regionalization of violent jihadism and beyond: the case of Daesh" *Interdisciplinary Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society* 2: 30-55.

Week 12: Trumpism, Brexit: TBD