

Sociology 140
Spring 2014
Tue. Thurs. 9:30-11:00
166 Barrows

Professor Margaret Weir
Office Hours: Wed. 12:30-2
499 Barrows
643-1602
mweir@berkeley.edu

POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE

This course analyzes the intersection between politics and society. We begin by considering theories of the state and the organization of society. The course then examines different forms of political engagement including social movements, voting, and political parties. We will consider how the changing organization of civil society and new technologies, including the Internet and social media, influence political engagement. Among the questions we will ask are: How does the organization of the political system affect whose voices get heard? How do different groups mobilize to become effective in politics? How do great inequalities of wealth affect patterns of political mobilization and the prospects for social change? The course will draw on material from the developed world, focusing in particular on comparisons between the United States and Europe.

REQUIREMENTS:

This course uses a combination of lecture format, weekly sections, and class-wide discussion sessions. Requirements include regular attendance at lectures, regular participation in section discussions, a closed-book midterm, a 10-12 page research paper, and a closed-book final exam. For final grades, these components will be weighted as follows:

attendance and participation in class discussions	10%
midterm exam	20%
research paper	30%
final exam	40%

Regular attendance and careful preparation of the readings are both essential. Since there is much variation in politics across cities, much of the essential theoretical material is presented in lectures. Section discussions are designed to give you an active command of the factual material as well as theoretical debates, which in turn requires your informed participation based on the readings. The first six weeks of the course will be covered in an in-class midterm exam, **February 20, 2011**.

A 10-page research paper is due at **4 p.m. on May 2**. Further information on the topics for the research paper will be distributed in class.

The final exam will take place according to the Registrar's published schedule. Everyone must double-check the location and date toward the end of class. The final will be a comprehensive, closed-book exam. More information on the exam format will be distributed in class.

READINGS:

Most of the required articles and chapters are included in a Course Reader, available from Central Copy on Bancroft Way.

One book

A few required readings have been omitted from the reader and are available on the Web or on the course B-space site.

OFFICE HOURS:

To sign up for Professor Weir's office hours, please use the electronic sign-up sheet <http://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/egmjl>.

ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Because the course moves quickly, everyone should decide within the first two weeks whether they expect to stay in the class. To be sure you get entered onto our class roster, everyone must do two things: **(1)** register through Telebears and **(2)** subscribe to the course bSpace site under the site title, POL SCI 175A LEC 001.

If you are waitlisted for the course, these two steps do not guarantee your enrollment but are necessary in order to let us know of your interest.

SOME GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

There are several commonsense policies that I will follow in order to ensure fairness for all members of the class.

Attendance at lectures is required. Since lectures will run parallel to the readings, but without always summarizing them, everyone should plan to take notes on the lectures as well as readings. Material covered in lectures will be included in the exam questions.

Make-up exams or extra-credit assignments will not be offered. Dates for the exams are listed on the syllabus. If you have conflicts with these dates, please let me know at the beginning of the term. Exceptions will be granted only in cases of serious illness, injury, or documented family emergencies.

Be respectful of your classmates. If you arrive late or need to leave early, please take a seat quietly in the back of the lecture room. If someone engages in disruptive activities during class, please expect that I will ask them to leave the class.

Please turn all cell phones off before coming into class!
No laptops in class!!!

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

I. STATES

Week 1 (Jan. 21, 23) Introduction to the Course/ Political Authority and Perspectives on the State

Max Weber *From Max Weber* edited by H. H. Gerth and CW Mills, pp.294-301.

Fred Block "The Ruling Class Does Not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State," in *Revising State Theory: Essays in Post Politics and Postindustrialism* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1987), pp.51-68.

Week 2 (Jan. 28, 30) What Do States Do?

Michael Mann, "The Autonomous Power of the State: Its Origins, Mechanisms, and Results," *The European Journal of Sociology* vol. 25, no. 2 (1984):188-192.

Desmond King and Marc Stears, "How the U.S. State Works: A Theory of Standardization," *Perspectives on Politics* vol.9, no.3 (September 2011); 505-518.

Fred Block, "Swimming Against the Current: The Rise of a Hidden Developmental State in the United States," *Politics and Society*, Vol. 36 No. 2, June 2008 169-206.

Week 3 (Feb 4, 6) Welfare States

Koen Caminada and Megan Martin, "Differences in Anti-Poverty Approaches in Europe and the United States," *Poverty and Public Policy* vol.2, no. 2, 2010, 1-15.

Suzanne Mettler, *The Submerged State: How Invisible Government Policies Undermine American Democracy*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011), pp.1-30.

Sven Steinmo and Jon Watts, "It's the Institutions, Stupid! Why Comprehensive National Health Insurance Always Fails in America," *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 20, no. 2 (1995): 329-372.

Week 4 (Feb. 11, 13) States and Globalization

David Held and Anthony G. McGrew, *Globalization/Anti-Globalization: Beyond the Great Divide* Second Edition (London: Polity Press, 2007), pp.13-27.

Margaret Keck and Kathryn Sikkink, *Activists Beyond Borders: Advocacy Networks in International Politics* (Cornell University Press, 1998), pp. 1-38.

Jamie Peck and Nik Theodore, "Recombinant Workfare, across the Americas: Transnationalizing "Fast" Social Policy," *Geoforum* 41 2010, pp.195-208.

Week 5 (Feb. 18, 20) Review and Midterm

II. THE ORGANIZATION OF SOCIETY

Week 6 (Feb 25, 27) The Organization of Civil Society

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America* (New York: Penguin Classics), pp.595-600.

Robert D. Putnam, *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2000), pp.48-64, 336-349.

Theda Skocpol, "Advocates without Members: Recent Transformations of American Civic Life," in *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, (Washington D.C. and New York: Brookings and Russell Sage Foundation, 1999), pp.461-509.

Week 7 (March 4, 6) Class Organization -- Business and Labor

Kim Phillips-Fine, *Invisible Hands: The Businessmen's Crusade Against the New Deal* (New York: WW. Norton, 2009), pp.185-212.

Mark S. Mizruchi, *The Fracturing of the American Corporate Elite* (Harvard University Press, 2013), pp.180-224.

Bruce Western and Jake Rosenfeld, "Workers of the World Divide: The Decline of Labor and the Future of the Middle Class," *Foreign Affairs* vol. 92 no.3 (May/June2012): 88-99.

III. Making Social Change

Week 8 (March 11, 13) Mobilizing for Actions

Hank Johnston, *States and Social Movements* (Polity Press, 2011), pp. 31-64.

Marshall Ganz, "Resources and Resourcefulness: Strategic Capacity in the Unionization of California Agriculture, 1959-1966," *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 105, No. 4. (Jan., 2000), pp. 1003-1062.

Week 9 (March 18, 20) Elites and the Grassroots

Theda Skocpol and Vanessa Williamson, *The Tea Party and the Remaking of Republican Conservatism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012), pp. 83-188.

Week 10 (March 25, 27) **Spring Break**

Week 11 (April 1, 3) Mobilizing Wealth/Mobilizing Ideas

Alice O'Connor, *Social Science For What?* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2004) pp.118-139.

"Leveraging Limited Dollars," (Washington DC: Center for Responsive Philanthropy, 2012), 1-14.

Diane Ravitch, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, (New York: Basic Books, 2010), pp.195-222.

Week 12 (April 8, 10) Reviving Labor: New Strategies/New Organizations

Rick Fantasia and Kim Voss, *Hard Work: Remaking the American Labor Movement* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004), pp. 120-175.

Nazgol Ghandnoosh, "Organizing Workers Along Ethnic Lines," *Working for Justice: The LA Model of Organizing and Advocacy* (ILR Press, 2010), pp.49-70.

April 8 **Outline for paper due**

Week 13 (April 15, 17) Local Mobilization and the Problem of Scale

Mark Santow, "Running in Place: Saul Alinsky, Race and Community Organizing," in *Transforming the City: Community Organizing and the Challenge of Political Change* edited by Marion Orr (Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 2007), pp.28-55.

Heidi Swarts, "Political Opportunity, Venue Shopping, and Strategic Innovation: Acorn's National Organizing," in *Transforming the City: Community Organizing and the Challenge of Political Change* edited by Marion Orr (Kansas: University of Kansas Press, 2007), pp.134-161.

Els de Graauw, "The Inclusive City: Public-Private Partnerships and Immigrant Rights in San Francisco," in *Remaking Urban Citizenship: Organizations, Institutions, and the Right to the City*," (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 2012), pp.135-150

Week 14 (April 22, 24) International Waves of Mobilization: the Role of the Internet

Manuel Castells, *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age* (London: Polity, 2012), pp. 1-19,110-247.

Week 15 (April 29, May 1) Course Wrap-Up