SYLLABUS – SPRING 2016

Professor Dylan Riley
Political Sociology, Soc 140.
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30–5:00
Venue: 2 Leconte
email: riley@berkeley.edu
Office: 490 Barrows Hall
Office Hours:

Course Description

Sociology 140 offers an introduction to political sociology. It focuses on two key questions: how should we explain the emergence of the "modern state" and how should we understand the various political regimes through which these states are governed? Students are introduced to three classic perspectives on these issues: Marxism, the Tocquevillian approach, analytic elitism, and governmentality. The second half of the class examines some empirical work that uses one or a combination of these approaches.

Assessment:

Course Participation: 10%
Mini Exams (3): 30%
Mid Term: 25%
Final Exam: 35%

Course Requirements

Students are required to attend and participate in class and do all the readings. I will pass out a sign in sheet at the beginning of every class. You will receive points toward this portion of your grade if you sign the sign-in sheet and demonstrate preparation for the class. The mini exams each count for 10% of the grade, the midterm 25% and the final 35%.

I do not give make-up examinations nor do I give incompletes except in medical emergencies and only with a doctor's note.

Course Materials

Anderson, Perry. Lineages of the Absolutist State.
Burchell, Graham, Colin Gordon and Peter Miller. The Foucault Effect.
De Tocqueville, Alexis. Democracy in America.
Durkheim, Emile. Professional Ethics and Civic Morals.
Engels, Friedrich. The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.
Gorski, Philip S. The Disciplinary Revolution: Calvinism and the Rise of the State in Early Modern Europe.
Lenin, Vladimir Il'ich. The Lenin Anthology.
Marx, Karl. Later Political Writings.
Mosca, Gaetano. *The Ruling Class.*
Putnam, Robert D. *Making Democracy Work.*
Schumpeter, Joseph A. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy.*
Skocpol, Theda. *States & Social Revolutions: A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia, and China.*
Tilly, Charles. *Coercion, Capital, and European States.*

**Marxism**

January 19

January 21

January 26

January 28

February 2
**Exam**

**The Tocquevillian Approach**

February 4

February 9

February 11

February 16

February 18
**Exam**

**Elitist Approaches**

February 23

February 25

March 1

March 3

March 8

March 10
Exam

**Governmentality**

March 15

March 17
Wrap Up Lecture

March 29
**Mid-Term**

**Substantive Work: The Debate on Democracy and the Debate on the State**

**The Debate on State Formation**

March 31

April 5

April 7

April 12

April 14
April 19

**The Debate on Democracy**

April 21
**Reading Break**

April 26

April 28

May 5
Course Wrap Up.

**Final Exam, Friday May 13th**