

Fall 2024

SOCIOL 140:  
**POLITICS AND SOCIAL CHANGE**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys a major subfield in sociology: *political sociology*. Political sociology overlaps and differs from political science and the study of politics in other fields (e.g., anthropology, media and communications, ethnic studies). Engaging both theory and empirical research, we will explore how sociologists (and their interlocutors) have grappled with “politics” and the “political.” Over the semester, we explore topics such as power, colonialism, society/state relations, social movements, political repression, citizenship, collective identity, and social and political change. This exploration will reveal that what is meant by *politics* is historically contingent and contested. We will also consider what political sociology can offer us as we engage and act in the world today.

**A NOTE ABOUT THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

We are still in a global pandemic that continues to cause loss and suffering. *As such, I want us all to prioritize our physical and mental health throughout the semester.* You are welcome to wear a mask in class. Members of our community might have medical conditions or live with immunocompromised family members who they wish to protect from COVID. The course will take place in person. However, should circumstances change, we will adjust as needed. For the latest campus information and resource related to COVID-19, visit [here](#).

**EXPECTATIONS FOR COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY**

**Ethics of Learning and Discussion**

This course explores complex, contentious, and controversial issues. Course readings and discussions may generate discomfort and disagreement. I invite you to share your perspectives and experiences and engage in open yet respectful dialogue with me and each

other. We all have a responsibility to help build a space of learning, reflection, and community. To that end, there is no room for dehumanizing or demeaning language or gestures, as well as acts of intimidation or harassment.

### **Email Communication**

Make sure to check your berkeley.edu email daily for announcements and class communication. I will try to respond within 48 hours to your emails, but please be patient.

### **bCourses**

bCourses will serve as the hub for assigned articles, assignments, and announcements. You should check bCourses regularly. If you have any questions about class logistics or materials, please check bCourses and the syllabus before emailing me.

## **REQUIRED BOOKS**

We will be reading excerpts from the following book. Click on hyperlink to access the e-book through the Berkeley library.

1. Janoski, Thomas, Cedric de Leon, Joya Misra, and Isaac William Martin (editors). 2020. [\*The New Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Parties, Movements, Citizenship and Globalization\*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### *INTRODUCTIONS AND FOUNDATIONS*

**Week 1 (August 28): SYLLABUS REVIEW+**

**Week 2 (September 4): WHAT IS POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY?**

- Janoski, Thomas, Cedric de Leon, Joya Misra, and Isaac William Martin. 2020. "Introduction: New Directions in Political Sociology." Pp. 1-32 in *The New Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Parties, Movements, Citizenship and Globalization*. [Read [Only pp. 1-7.](#)]
- Rodríguez-Muñiz, Michael. 2016. "Riot and Remembrance: Puerto Rican Chicago and the Politics of Interruption." *Centro Journal* 28(2): 204-217.

**Week 3 (September 9 & 11): THREE TRADITIONS: MARX, WEBER, AND DU BOIS**

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1848. "The Communist Manifesto." Pp. 473-500 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by Robert C. Tucker. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. [Read [Only Pp. 473-491](#)]

- Weber, Max. 1946 [1919]. "Politics as a Vocation." Pp. 77-128 in *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Read Only Pp. 77-87]
- Du Bois, W. E. B. 1915. "The African Roots of War." *Atlantic Monthly* (May 15):707–714.

## POLITICS NOW

### Week 4 (September 16 & 18): **PARTISAN POLITICS**

- Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2024. "Voice and Vote in Democratic Politics." Pp. 49-63 in *What Is Political Sociology?*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Lempinen, Edward. 2024. "[Young Voters have Growing Power, But Broken Politics Leave Them 'Fatalistic,' Studies Find.](#)" *Berkeley News*.
- Results of Class Poll

## KEY POLITICAL CONCEPTS

### Week 5 (September 23 & 25): **POWER**

- De Leon, Cedric and Andy Clarno 2020. "Power." Pp. 35-52 in *The New Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Parties, Movements, Citizenship and Globalization*.

### Week 6 (September 30 & October 2): **STATES/GOVERNMENTS**

- Morgan, Kimberly J. and Ann Shola Orloff 2018. "Introduction: The Many Hands of the State." Pp. 1-32 in *The Many Hands of the State: Theorizing Political Authority and Social Control*, edited by Kimberly J. Morgan and Ann Shola Orloff. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Read only pp. 1-18]
- Strmic-Pawl, Hephzibah V., Brandon A. Jackson, and Steve Garner. 2018. "Race Counts: Racial and Ethnic Data on the US Census and the Implications for Tracking Inequality." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 4(1): 1-13.

### Week 7 (October 7 & 9): **EMPIRE AND COLONIALISM**

- Go, Julian. 2020. "Political Sociology and the Postcolonial Perspective." Pp. 132-152 in *The New Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Parties, Movements, Citizenship and Globalization*.
- Sabbagh-Khoury, Areej. 2022. "'But If I Don't Steal It, Someone Else Is Gonna Steal It' – Israeli Settler-Colonial Accumulation by Dispossession." *Middle East Report* 302 (Spring).

### Week 8 (October 14 & 16): **NATION/NATIONALISM**

- Chernilo, Daniel. 2020. "Beyond the Nation? Or back to it? Current Trends in the Sociology of Nations and Nationalism." *Sociology* 54(6): 1072-1087.
- Miller-Idriss, Cynthia. 2019. "The Global Dimensions of Populist Nationalism." *The International Spectator* 54(2): 17-34.

**Week 9 (October 21): CITIZENSHIP**

- Janoski, Thomas and Sara Compion. 2020. "The Challenges of Citizenship in Civil Society." Pp. 595-626 in *The New Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Parties, Movements, Citizenship and Globalization*.
- Zimmerman, Arely, Joanna Perez, and Leisy J. Abrego. 2022. "Complexities of Belonging: Compounded Foreignness and Racial Cover Among Undocumented Central American Youth." *Ethnicities* 1-21.

POLITICAL ORDER AND CHANGE

**Week 10: (October 28 & 30): CLASS CHOSEN TOPIC(S) (TBA)**

**Week 11 (November 4 & 6): ELECTION 2024**

**Week 12 (November 13): SOCIAL MOVEMENTS**

- Jasper, James M. 2020. "Social Movements." Pp. 627-645 in *The New Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Parties, Movements, Citizenship and Globalization*.
- Ayoub, Phillip M., and Agnès Chetaille. 2020. "Movement/Countermovement Interaction and Instrumental Framing in a Multi-Level World: Rooting Polish Lesbian and Gay Activism." *Social Movement Studies* 19(1): 21-37.

**Week 13 (November 18 & 20): RESISTANCE AND REPRESSION**

- Viterna, Jocelyn. 2015. "Women's Mobilization into the Salvadoran Guerrilla Army." Pp. 83-99 in *The Social Movements Reader: Cases and Concepts*, edited by Jeff Goodwin and James M. Jasper (Third Edition). Malden: Wiley Blackwell.
- Watch "[COINTELPRO 101](#)," an educational film produced by the Berkeley-based, [Freedom Archives](#).

**Week 14 (November 25): CLASS CHOSEN TOPIC (TBA)**

- Reading TBA

POLITICAL TOMORROWS

**Week 15 (December 4): PREFIGURATIVE POLITICS**

- Benjamin, Ruha, 2022. "Introduction." Pp. 1-26 in *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## **GRADED ITEMS**

### **Participation (20%)**

It is important to be present and prepared to participate in the course. You can participate by raising questions, making comments, submitting quotes for discussion, and completing in class assignments. Absences will count against participation.

### **Political Journal (20%)**

Throughout the semester, you will write brief reflections on course materials and contemporary political dynamics in a journal. Some reflections will be done in class, others outside of class.

### **Online Exams (60%)**

During the semester, the class will take three online exams. The exams will cover key concepts and arguments using true/false, multiple-choice, and short essay questions.

<b>Exam 1</b>	Week 4	15%
<b>Exam 2</b>	Week 9	20%
<b>Exam 3</b>	Finals Week	25%

## **OTHER DETAILS**

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend every session, barring a documented emergency or recognized religious holiday. However, things happen—and sometimes you just need a break. In any case, please let me know if you will not be attending class.

### **Academic Integrity and Ethics**

Cheating on exams and plagiarism are examples of violations in the realm of ethics and integrity. Honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior are of great importance in all facets of life. They are so important that it is generally assumed that one has learned and internalized these qualities at an early age. As a result, these issues rarely get explicitly addressed by the time one gets to be a university student. However, it cannot be overstated just how important honesty is to the academic enterprise.

### **Accommodations**

The purpose of academic accommodations and supportive measures is to ensure that all students have a fair chance at academic success. Disability, or hardships such as basic needs insecurity, uncertain documentation and immigration status, medical and mental health concerns, significant familial distress, and experiencing sexual violence or harassment, can affect a student's ability to satisfy particular course requirements. Students have the right to

accommodations and supportive measures and to resources, without having to disclose personal information to instructors. For more information, click [here](#).

For disabilities-related accommodations, please enroll in the [Disabled Students' Program](#) (DSP). See me as soon as possible if you need particular accommodations, and we will make the necessary arrangements.

### **Other Community Services**

[University Health Services](#) (UHS) provides comprehensive medical, mental health, and health promotion services to all Cal students and a variety of occupational health services to faculty and staff.

[Path to Care](#) is the campus's comprehensive resource for all support related to sexual violence/harassment, intimate partner violence, and stalking.

[Risk Management & Harm Reduction](#) is a program of University Health Services that collaborates with other campus and community organizations to reduce harm associated with drinking in the campus area.

[Student Learning Center](#) (SLC) provides various academic resources and support, including peer writing tutors.

[Basic Needs Center](#) is a virtual and physical hub that provides and connects students to essential services that impact health, belonging, and overall well-being, including both short-term emergency relief and long-term support services addressing students' basic needs (i.e., food security, housing security, and financial stability).

**\* Instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus. Changes will be announced in advance.**