

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Fall 2020

Instructor: Tina Fetner

Email: tina.fetner@mcmaster.ca

Meeting time: Thurs 11:30am-2:30pm

Zoom:

<https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/96217750011>

Office: KTH-628

Office Hours: by appt

Course Description

Political sociology is the study of the polity, its insiders and outsiders, contentions and social change. At the center of this inquiry is the state and its institutions, both legislative and bureaucratic. Analyses of the state and its politics have been at the core of sociology since its inception. Sociologists are concerned not only with accurately describing and measuring the states and their functions, but also in how the state confers and maintains legitimacy, the influence that states have on cultural values, and the ways that states resist or adopt change over time. Scholars in this field use a diverse range of methodologies and theories.

Although this topic is far too broad to cover comprehensively in one semester, this course will provide its participants with an overview of the theoretical and empirical developments in this body of scholarly work, focusing where we can on the Canadian case, and turning our attention to global issues and the supranational political sphere.

This course assumes that students share a desire to both understand and contribute to scholarship on political sociology. Therefore, the course is designed to provide opportunities to hone scholarly and professional skills, as well as to deliver relevant content. Throughout the course, each student will work both independently and interactively to contribute to this scholarly project.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Develop a deep, fluent understanding of major theoretical perspectives in political sociology.
- Understand the main debates in the sociological literature on this topic in terms of theory, hypothesis, evidence and implications.
- Apply theoretical and methodological tools of sociology to conceptualize and explain the state, politics, and social change in Canadian, comparative, and global contexts.
- Search for relevant research articles, understand their claims and the evidence offered to support them, evaluate their contribution to the field, and consider how they may support future research.

- Demonstrate effective and clear analytic, writing, and discussion skills.

Required Materials and Texts

- Janoski, Thomas, Cedric de Leon, Joya Misra, and Isaac William Martin, eds. 2020. *The New Handbook of Political Sociology*. Cambridge University Press. *This is a very large, very expensive textbook, from which 7 chapters (of 40) are assigned for this course. You may want to read the e-book available through the library rather than purchase this book.*
- American Sociological Association. 2014. *ASA Style Guide, 5th edition*. Available for purchase through the ASA's online bookstore at <http://www.asanet.org>.
- Additional journal articles are available through JSTOR and the library website.
- Additional book chapters will be posted on Avenue to Learn.

Class Format

During the Fall 2020 semester, this course will meet online via Zoom. I expect to use Zoom as if it were a regular classroom. Thus, all students are expected to put on their cameras and focus their attention exclusively on our class during the weekly class meeting. If there are circumstances that make these expectations difficult for you, please contact me via email to discuss an alternative. Online sessions will not be recorded. Please plan to attend every class meeting.

Course Evaluation – Overview

This course will make use of small groups to spark discussion and explore ideas. You will be randomly assigned to small group at the beginning of the term, and your group will meet at the start of each class to organize your thoughts to contribute to the seminar discussion. Your groups will review your response memos and provide constructive feedback. Your group will workshop your term paper and offer constructive feedback. The small group process will put us in the mindset of collaboration, feedback and revision. However, all work is submitted and graded individually.

Seminar Participation

This course is a graduate seminar; therefore, students are expected to attend every class meeting having thoughtfully completed the readings and having prepared some questions or comments for class discussion. Each class meeting, every student will meet with their small group to decide upon questions, topics or issues to discuss in class, challenging their classmates to fully consider the course materials and the larger topic for that week. As the professor, I will use lecture sparingly to give context, explain related ideas, and to contribute to the discussion, ask questions, and challenge students' claims.

While all high-quality seminar contributions make it clear that the course material has been read and considered thoughtfully, there are numerous forms that contributions can

take, such as declarative statements, strong opinions, insightful questions, requests for clarification, and challenges to class materials and to others' claims. Class should always maintain the highest standards of intellectual exchange. Interruptions, excessive holding of the floor, or other rude behavior is not allowed. If you feel that the class is somehow unwelcoming of your full participation, please talk to me so that we can make adjustments such that all students feel comfortable participating every week.

Response Memos

On a rotating basis, each student is required to write two response memos over the course of the semester. Please see the assignment sheet for details and refer to the sample response memo.

Send your memo to your groupmates to receive feedback for revision prior to submitting it for grading. Response memos are to be turned in to Avenue to Learn by **noon on the Wednesday** before class. Memos will be graded on comprehension of the reading's main claims, as well as the depth and quality of the author's response. The length of each memo should be 1-2 pages of double-spaced type. Please edit your work rather than go over this limit.

Seminar Paper

Each student will complete an 8-10 page seminar paper (not including works-cited list), in which a) one of the weekly topics is reviewed in greater depth, or b) another topic in political sociology—approved by the professor—is reviewed. The goal of a seminar paper is to review the literature in this area of scholarship, synthesize this work to present major themes and areas of debate, and to critically analyze the arguments made.

I am available to provide feedback on this assignment throughout the semester, and I recommend that you talk with me about your project by setting up an appointment via email.

Course Evaluation – Details

Seminar participation (10%)

You are expected to attend every class meeting having read the material, and to participate in small-group and class discussion thoughtfully and respectfully.

Response memo #1 (20%)

Due date will be assigned in Week 1.

Response memo #2 (20%)

Due date will be assigned in Week 1.

Paper proposal (10%), due October 22, 2020 at 11:30am

Final seminar paper (40%), due December 3, 2020 at 11:30am

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 – September 17, 2020

Introduction

Lachmann, Richard. 2020. "Nation-State Formation: Power and Culture."
Chapter 17 in textbook.

Notes: Small groups, response memo due dates will be assigned.

Week 2 – September 24, 2020

Theories of power

de Leon, Cedric and Andy Clarno. 2020 "Power." Chapter 1 in textbook.

Week 3 – October 1, 2020

States as Institutions

Clemens, Elisabeth S. and Wan-Zi Lu. 2020. "States as Institutions." Chapter 16
in textbook.

Week 4 – October 8, 2020

Culture and politics

Berezin, Mabel, Emily Sandusky and Thomas Davidson. 2020. "Culture in
Politics and Politics in Culture: Institutions, Practices and Boundaries." Chapter 4
in textbook.

Reading Week

Week 5 – October 22, 2020

Settler colonialism and state building

Go, Julian. 2020. "Political Sociology and the Postcolonial Perspective." Chapter
5 in textbook.

Kubik, Wendee, Carrie Bourassa, and Mary Hampton. 2009. "Stolen Sisters,
Second Class Citizens, Poor Health: The Legacy of Colonization in
Canada." *Humanity & Society* 33(1-2): 18–34.

Term paper proposals are due at the start of class today.

Week 6 – September 17, 2020

State, Gender and Citizenship

Hearn, Jeff and Barbara Hobson. 2020. "Gender, State, and Citizenships:
Challenges and Dilemmas in Feminist Theorizing." Chapter 6 in textbook.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 2015. "Settler Colonialism as Structure: A Framework for Comparative Studies of U.S. Race and Gender Formation." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1(1): 52–72.

Week 7 – November 5, 2020

Immigration policy: borders and racism

David Cook-Martín and David FitzGerald. 2010. "Liberalism and the Limits of Inclusion: Race and Immigration Law in the Americas, 1850–2000." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* XLI: 1-25.

Week 8 – November 12, 2020

Democracy and rights

Kim, Jessica and Kathleen M. Fallon. 2020. "The Political Sociology of Democracy: From Measurement to Rights." Chapter 20 in textbook.

Week 9 – November 19, 2020

Social movements and states, institutions

Gallo-Cruz, Selina. 2019. "Nonviolence beyond the State: International NGOs and Local Nonviolent Mobilization." *International Sociology* 34(6): 655–74.

Armstrong, Elizabeth A. and Mary Bernstein. 2008. "Culture, Power, and Institutions: A Multi-Institutional Politics Approach to Social Movements." *Sociological Theory* 26: 74-99.

Week 10 – November 26, 2020

Global politics and world systems

Erin, Sakin and Christopher Chase-Dunn. 2020. "Global Political Sociology and World-Systems." Chapter 36 in textbook.

Desai, Manisha. 2007. "The Messy Relationship Between Feminisms and Globalizations." *Gender & Society* 21(6): 797–803.

Week 11 – December 3, 2020

Paper workshop

In-class research paper workshop. Have electronic copies of your completed final paper for peer review.

Week 12 – December 10, 2020

Course review

We'll use this last class to catch up on things we didn't quite get to, pat each other on the back for a job well done, and revel in how smart we all are.

Term papers are due at start of class today.

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments should be in an easy to read, 12 point font, with margins of 1"-1.25". Submit assignments via Avenue to Learn's "Assignments" folders. Please use one of the formats that A2L can display without requiring a download. These include MS Word and .pdf. If you know of others, I will accept them too.

In this class, we use one space after a period, Oxford commas, and ASA citation style. It is not worth arguing with the instructor about any of these.

Late Assignments

In graduate courses, assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Please contact the instructor via email if you have extenuating circumstances.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

Please rely on your small group to help you catch up with anything that you missed.

Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosures please discuss this with the course instructor.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via Avenue to Learn (A2L) plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work through A2L and/or Turnitin.com must still submit an electronic and/or hardcopy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com or A2L. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more information please refer to the [Turnitin.com Policy](#).

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty

- Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a [RISO](#) accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights](#)

[& Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F