

Sociology 4421

Political Sociology

Sociology 4421  
Louisiana State University

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### Political Sociology

#### Course Description

An examination of social structure and politics: state creation and the growth of democracy, alignment and cleavage structure, ideology and values, party systems and voting, state and economy, political participation, legitimation and alienation, and protest and revolution. Case studies include: industrialism and working-class politics, the rise of Nazism in Germany, and party realignment in America.

#### LSU Description

SOCL 4421 Political Sociology (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Social structure and politics.

#### Required Reading will come from the following books:

Anthony M. Orum & John G. Dale, Introduction to Political Sociology (Oxford University Press; 5 edition, 2008, ISBN-13: 978-0195371154).

Russell Dalton, Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies, Seventh Edition (CQ Press, 2020). ISBN-13: 978-1544351780

John H. Aldrich, Jamie L. Carson, Brad T. Gomez, David W. Rohde, Change and Continuity in the 2016 and 2018 Elections (CQ Press, 2019). ISBN-13: 978-1544356778

Jan-Erik Lane and Svante O. Ersson, Politics and Society in Western Europe, Fourth Edition (Sage, 1999). ISBN 0761958622

Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G Niemi, Pippa Norris, Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in a Changing World, Fourth Edition (SAGE Publications, 2014), paperback, ISBN: 9781446281987

Other Required Material:

Some additional articles and selections from books are required, as indicated in the weekly assignments. Some further required articles and materials will be available on or through my teaching web site – <http://www.fweil.com/s4421/> – changes in assignments may also be made on the web site. The course lecture notes (not required) will also be available on my web site.

Recommended Reading:

Russell J Dalton, The Good Citizen: How a Younger Generation Is Reshaping American Politics Third Edition CQ Press, Third edition (CQ Press, 2020) ISBN-13: 978-1544395852

Charles Tilly, Democracy, Cambridge University Press, 2007, ISBN-13: 978-0521701532

Steven Levitsky, Daniel Ziblatt, How Democracies Die, Broadway Books, 2019, ISBN-13: 978-1524762940

Harold Wilensky, Rich Democracies: Political Economy, Public Policy, and Performance, University of California Press, 2002, ISBN-13: 978-0520232792

Thomas Janoski, Robert R. Alford, Alexander M. Hicks, eds., The Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Civil Societies, and Globalization, hardcover, Cambridge University Press, 2005, ISBN-13: 978-0521526203

Edwin Amenta, Kate Nash, Alan Scott, eds., The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology, Hardcover, Wiley-Blackwell, 2012, ISBN-13: 978-1444330939

Elizabeth A. Theiss-Morse, Michael W. Wagner, William H. Flanigan, Nancy H. Zingale, Political Behavior of the American Electorate, Fourteenth Edition (CQ Press, 2018) ISBN 9781506367736

E.J. Dionne Jr., Norman J. Ornstein, Thomas E. Mann, One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Deported (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017) ISBN-13: 978-1250164056

Elisabeth Clemens, What is Political Sociology? (Polity Press, 2016), 1st edition. ISBN-13: 978-0745691619

Course Requirements:

Attendance at lectures, class discussions, and six quizzes. You will be responsible for all readings, lecture information, and assigned materials on the course web site, <http://www.fweil.com/s4421/>, including any updates. You should also be familiar with the materials on the 2020 election at [www.fweil.com/Elections/2020/Election2020.html](http://www.fweil.com/Elections/2020/Election2020.html), the “Trend Charts” section of the website, as well as the press clippings posted on the class webpage and on the Facebook page, “Polit Soc,” <https://www.facebook.com/polit.soc>. Attendance will be monitored through Zoom analytics, and *will account for 5% of the grade*. The course will consist partly of lectures and readings and partly of discussion. Students should always have read the assignments and come prepared for discussion.

All students must keep the instructor informed of the screen names or phone numbers used to sign into the Zoom sessions, including multiple names and phone numbers, in the event you join Zoom through a variety of means. We will use this information partly to recognize you online, and also partly to give you credit for attendance. If you don’t provide us with this information, you might not get credit for classes you attend.

Updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on the class website: <http://www.fweil.com/s4421/>. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information. My lecture notes and other helpful materials are available on my website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.

Although the Covid-19 Pandemic makes it necessary to conduct our class remotely, by Zoom, Moodle, and websites, our goal is to make the class approximate an in-person experience as much as can be achieved. One thing this means is that the class will be held “synchronously,” which is to say, live.

Normal university-approved excuses will be accepted, work can be made up, and the instructor is happy to help students understand material they missed in excused absences. If you experience technical difficulties connecting remotely, make sure to inform the instructor, and we will make the best accommodations we are able. Any disability accommodations will be handled according to guidelines established by the Office of Disabilities. In addition to the formal disability notifications, the instructor is happy to help work with you according to your needs.

If you miss a class for one of the approved reasons listed above, please take the steps you would ordinarily take if this were a regular in-person class. You can ask for notes from another student in the class, and you can request a Zoom meeting with the

instructor. In addition, I will record the Zoom lectures and will give you access if you have an excused absence. I will not make these recordings generally available, in order to encourage class attendance and participation. Unexcused absences will be counted against attendance numbers. We are in a new situation, not of our choosing, and this is my best attempt at finding a fair balance, while encouraging class participation.

Grade Scale:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 & below	F

Note: A higher grade begins at the exact number. For instance, an A is 93.00 to 96.99, and an A- is 90.00 to 92.99.

Standard LSU Statements (as of 8/1/2020):**GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

It is important to attend class regularly and keep up with the assigned readings. Please utilize office hours if you have any questions about the course material, your standing in the course, or other related matters.

LSU policy states that for each credit hour, students should plan to spend at least two hours working on course related activities outside of class. Since this course is for three credit hours, you should expect to spend a **minimum of six hours outside of class each week** working on assignments for this course. More information on this expectation can be found [here](#).

**ABSENCES AND MAKE-UPS**

Class attendance is the responsibility of the student. Students are expected to attend all classes. A student who finds it necessary to miss class assumes responsibility for making up examinations, obtaining lecture notes, and otherwise compensating for what may have been missed. The course instructor determines the validity of a student's reason(s) for absences and will assist those students who have valid reasons as outlined in [LSU Policy Statement 22](#).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

All LSU students are responsible for observing high standards of academic integrity. The [LSU Student Code of Conduct](#) explains student rights, excused absences, and what is expected of student behavior. Students are expected to understand this code. Any violations will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**ACCESSIBILITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

LSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. The syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class, please visit [Disability Services](#) so that such accommodations can be considered. Students who receive accommodation letters should meet with their instructor to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

The primary ingredients for your academic success are attending class, managing your time efficiently, taking good notes, and developing your critical thinking and communication abilities. LSU has a number of excellent resources that can assist you in developing these skills. The [Center for Academic Success](#) offers guidance on what learning strategies are best suited to your talents, tutoring, and workshops on a variety of topics. [Communication Across the Curriculum](#) assists students in developing the communication skills necessary for academic and professional success. Finally, the [Olinde Career Center](#) can assist you in choosing a major and a profession that best suits your talents and develop a career plan to ensure success when you graduate from LSU.

**COVID-19 STATEMENT**

We remain under pandemic conditions and expect to be in this state for the entire semester. In order to consistently provide the highest quality LSU education, all students should follow current LSU guidelines. These include the following:

1. If you have any signs of illness, do not come to class.

2. The University requires everyone to wear facemasks/cloths on campus. Failure to do so is a violation of the code of student conduct.
3. Wash hands with soap and water or clean with sanitizer frequently, and refrain from touching your face.
4. If you cough or sneeze unexpectedly, please be mindful of others nearby and cough or sneeze into your elbow or shield yourself the best you can.
5. If you have been exposed to others who have tested positive for COVID-19, self-quarantine consistent with current CDC guidelines.

**Daily Symptom Checker**

You are required to respond to a daily symptom check request sent via email or text message each morning. Completing the symptom checker will take approximately one to two minutes. Once you have provided information about your symptoms, you will be given feedback on whether or not you are certified to return to campus and attend your classes. Additionally, if you test positive for COVID-19, you are required to report it in your daily symptom checker application.

**Resources for Students**

If you are feeling ill or overwhelmed with anxiety, please contact the [LSU Student Health Center](#) for medical advice and mental health support. General health care and mental health support are available for all enrolled students through telehealth appointments.

**Unexpected Changes to Courses**

Due to the unpredictable nature of the situation, the format of the course and/or requirements may be forced to change, and if this is the case students will be given appropriate notification.

Assignments (see discussion topics below)

PART I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

**Week 1. Smith and Marx on Class Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 2.

**Week 2. Weber on State Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 3.

**Week 3. Tocqueville, Durkheim, & Parsons on Civil Society, Functionalism, and Pluralism.**

Read Orum, ch. 4.

Background Reading for Weeks 1-3:

Orum, ch. 1; Lane and Ersson, Introduction; LeDuc, Introduction.

PART II: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND POLITICS

**Week 4. State Creation.**

- a. Centralized States
- b. Growth of Democracy

Read Orum, ch. 6, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Gandhi. Also:

Charles Tilly. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." Pages 169-91 in *Bringing the State Back In*. Ed. Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschmeyer and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0 521 31313 9).

Linz, Juan J., and Alfred Stepan. 1996. "Toward Consolidated Democracies." *Journal of Democracy* 7(2):14-33.

Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy* 2(2):12-34.

**Week 5. Alignment and Cleavage Structure.**

Read Dalton, ch. 8; Lane and Ersson, ch. 2.

**Week 6. Ideology and Values.**

Read Dalton, ch. 2, 5, 6; Lane and Ersson, ch. 9. Also:

Baldassarri, Delia and Andrew Gelman. 2008. "Partisans without Constraint: Political Polarization and Trends in American Public Opinion." *American Journal of Sociology* 114(2):408-446.

**Week 7. Party Systems and Voting.**

Read Dalton, ch. 7, 9, 10; LeDuc, chapters by Gallagher, Kitschelt, LeDuc/Niemi/Norris, Powell; Orum, ch. 9; Lane and Ersson, ch. 3-5. Also:

Ford, Robert and Will Jennings. 2020. "The Changing Cleavage Politics of Western Europe." *Annual Review of Political Science* 23(1):295.

Hooghe, Liesbet and Gary Marks. 2018. "Cleavage theory meets Europe's crises: Lipset, Rokkan, and the transnational cleavage." *Journal of European Public Policy* 25(1):109.

Mudde, Cas. 2014. "Fighting the system? Populist radical right parties and party system change." *Party Politics* 20(2):217.

**Week 8. State and Economy.**

- a. Welfare State
- b. Capitalism and Democracy
- c. Neo-Corporatism

Read Janoski, ch. 22 (Streeck, Kentworthy, Theories and practices of new-corporatism), ch. 25 (Hicks, Esping-Andersen, Social policy and the welfare state); Lane and Ersson, ch. 6, 7, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Kayser; Orum, ch. 7; Wilensky, selections.



**Week 9. Political Participation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 3, 4; LeDuc, chapter by Hooghe; Orum, ch. 13.

Frederick Weil. 2011. "Rise of Community Organizations, Citizen Engagement, and New Institutions," in Amy Liu, Roland V. Anglin, Richard Mizelle, and Allison Plyer, editors, *Resilience and Opportunity: Lessons from the U.S. Gulf Coast after Katrina and Rita*, pp. 201-219. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

Recommended: Frederick Weil, 2012. "Can Citizens Affect Urban Policy? Blight Reduction in Post-Katrina New Orleans." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, New Orleans, August 31.

**Week 10. Legitimation and Alienation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 12; LeDuc, chapter by Norris; Also:

Frederick D. Weil. 1989. "The Sources and Structure of Legitimation in Western Democracies: A Consolidated Model Tested with Time-Series Data in Six Countries since World War II." *American Sociological Review* 54, 5:682-706.

Frederick D. Weil. 1994. "Political Culture, Political Structure and Democracy: The Case of Legitimation and Opposition Structure." *Research on Democracy and Society, Vol. 2, Political Culture and Political Structure: Theoretical and Empirical Studies*. JAI Press, Greenwich, CT (ISBN 1 55938 778 5).

Recommended: Russell J Dalton, [The Apartisan American](#)

**Week 11. Protest and Revolution.**

Read Orum, ch. 10.

PART III: THREE CASE STUDIES**Week 12. Industrialism and Working-Class Politics.**

Read: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1983. "Radicalism or Reformism: The Sources of Working-Class Politics." *American Political Science Review* 77: 1-18. (Reprinted in Lipset, *Consensus and Conflict*, New Brunswick: Transaction, 1985, ISBN 0 88738 608 3).  
And:

Katznelson, Ira, "Working-Class Formation: Constructing Cases and Comparisons" (ch. 1) and Aristide R. Zolberg, "How Many Exceptionalisms?" (ch. 9) - both in Katznelson and Zolberg, eds, *Working Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1986 ISBN 0 69110 207 4).

**Week 13. Nazism in Germany.**

Read: M. Rainer Lepsius, "From fragmented party democracy to government by emergency decree and National Socialist takeover: Germany," ch. 2 in Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds., *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Europe* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins U. Press, 1978, ISBN 0 8018 2022 7).

**Week 14. Party Realignment in America.**

Read: Abramson, et al., Introduction, Ch. 3-6, 8, 10-11.

Read the outline of party realignment on the course web site.

Recommended:

E.J. Dionne Jr., Norman J. Ornstein, Thomas E. Mann, One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet Deported (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017) ISBN-13: 978-1250164056

Martin P. Wattenberg, The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1996 (Harvard U. Press, 1998) selections.

### Discussion Sections

Tentative topics for discussion sections. These are subject to change and update. Readings and press clippings will be available on Dropbox, keyed to each discussion section, linked from the class webpage.

Discussion 1. Is there a new dimension of political alignment?

Read Dalton, pp. 177-9, Ford, Robert and Will Jennings. 2020. "The Changing Cleavage Politics of Western Europe." Annual Review of Political Science 23(1):295.

Discussion 2. What have been the effects of a global economy on society and politics?

Discussion 3. What's happening with the White working class? Is there a new extreme right?

Discussion 4. What's happening with the new left movement politics? Gender and sexuality, racial justice, environmentalism, gentrification?

Discussion 5. What's happening in the 2020 Presidential election?

Make sure to read the material linked on the class election pages and the "Polit Soc" Facebook page: [www.fweil.com/Elections/2020/Election2020.html](http://www.fweil.com/Elections/2020/Election2020.html), and <https://www.facebook.com/polit.soc>.

Discussion 6. Is there a new political polarization?

Discussion 7. What's the state of democracy in the world? Social trust and confidence in institutions?

Discussion 8 (if possible). Covid and Politics ... and Class Wrap-Up

## Sociology 4421 - Class Schedule - Fall '20

*Further updates possible: watch this page*

	Lectures	Lectures	Discussion/Quizzes
Week	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
<b>0</b>	24-Aug	26-Aug	28-Aug Class Intro
<b>1</b>	31-Aug Smith and Marx on Class Analyses	2-Sep	4-Sep <i>Discussion 1</i>
<b>2</b>	7-Sep Labor Day	9-Sep Weber on State Analyses	11-Sep <i>Discussion 2</i>
<b>3</b>	14-Sep Tocqueville, etc.	16-Sep	18-Sep <b>Quiz 1</b>
<b>4</b>	21-Sep State Creation	23-Sep	25-Sep <i>Discussion 3</i>
<b>5</b>	28-Sep Alignment and Cleavage Structure	30-Sep	2-Oct <b>Quiz 2</b>
<b>6</b>	5-Oct Ideology and Values	7-Oct	9-Oct <i>Discussion 4</i>
<b>7</b>	12-Oct Party Systems and Voting	14-Oct	16-Oct <b>Quiz 3</b>
<b>8</b>	19-Oct State and Economy	21-Oct	23-Oct <i>Discussion 5</i>
<b>9</b>	26-Oct Political Participation	28-Oct	30-Oct <b>Quiz 4</b>
<b>10</b>	2-Nov Legitimation and Alienation	4-Nov	6-Nov <i>Discussion 6</i>
<b>11</b>	9-Nov Protest and Revolution	11-Nov	13-Nov <b>Quiz 5</b>
<b>12</b>	16-Nov Industrialism and Working-Class Politics	18-Nov	20-Nov <i>Discussion 7</i>
<b>13</b>	23-Nov Nazism in Germany	25-Nov Thanksgiving	27-Nov Thanksgiving
<b>14</b>	30-Nov Party Realignment in America	2-Dec	4-Dec <b>Quiz 6</b>

Syllabus revision: 8/30/20