Political Sociology

SOC 311, Fall 2010

TTh 8:30-9:45, New Psych Bldg 230

SYLLABUS

Alex Hicks  
Tarbutton 215  
e-mail: ahicks@emory.edu (NOT learnlink)

Office Hrs: TTH: 9:55-10:15  
MWF: 11:15-11:45

Overview

One goal of this course is to provide students with an introductory overview of principal concepts and theoretical perspectives of political sociology; that is, with concepts like “power, authority, and influence” and perspectives like “pluralism, elitism and class analysis”.

A second objective is to provide in-depth study of some lively, timely topics. These will include U.S. domestic topics like the politics of prosperity and poverty, and comparative and transnational topics like global social problems of underdevelopment and terrorism and possible policies toward these.

The course will be taught by means of a combination of lecture and seminar (i.e., discussion) formats.

Course Requirements

Evaluation will be based on a class presentation or a 5 page essay (worth 15 % of grade), an in-class midterm tests (25%), a “long” a paper of 12 to 15 pages plus references (25%), a take-home final (25%) and in-class participation (10%).

Required Texts:

The only required text (available for purchase from the Emory Bookstore) is:  
W, Lawrence  Neuman, Power, State and Society: Introduction to Political Sociology

Other readings will available electronically (from Reserves Direct) or, in a few instances, as class hand outs or e-mailed attachments.

Schedule and Readings

Aug. 26. Intro, orientation, basic concepts

Neuman Ch. 1. Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle

What Is Political Sociology? / Key Concepts: Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle / Issues in Contemporary Political Sociology

Aug. 31. More Basic concepts

Neuman Ch. 2. Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State, pp. 31-43; 63-77  
Neuman Ch. 4. Polity of the United States, pp., 121-138.

Sept. 2. Theoretical Frameworks

Neuman, Ch. 3. Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology, pp. 83-107 (browse 108-120)
Sept. 7. Pluralism and Managerialism/Elitism
Neuman, Ch. 3, pp. 86-93 (review)
N. Polsby, “How to Study Community Power: the Pluralist Alternative” (Reserves Direct) Presentation Option: Rose, A., “Passage of Legislation: The Politics of Financing Medical Care for the Aging Rose” from The Power Structure, pp. 400-55. (Reserves Direct)

Sept. 9 Class-Analysis, I. A Class Framework Theory
Neuman, Ch. 3, pp. 97-102; Max Weber, “Class, Status, Party”
E. O. Wright, Class Counts, Chapter 1, esp., 9-26, 41-42 (Reserves Direct)
E.O. Wright, Chapter 13, “A general framework for studying class consciousness and class formation,” pp. 379-402, esp. Figs 13.5-6 (RD).

A. Hicks, Social Democracy & Welfare Capitalism, Ch. 1, Appendix (Reserves Direct)
Presentation Option: P. Nieuwbeerta, “The Democratic Class Struggle in Postwar Societies”

Sept. 16. Class-Analysis, II: Class and Party
Presentation Option: Neuman Ch. 6. Protest and Movements, pp. 277-296. Film: The Long Walk Home (start)

Sept. 21-23 Class-Analysis, III: Class, Ideology and Party

Sept. 28 Social Movements II
Neuman Ch. 6, Protest and Movements, pp. 227-266. Film: The Long Walk Home (start)

Sept. 30. Film Completion and Review

Oct. 7. Test

Oct. 21. Safety Net Politics, Neuman Ch. 11; Presentation Option: J. Pontusson, Inequality and Prosperity Ch. 2


Economic development as Social Problem and background to Developmental Politics
Neo-liberal Economic globalization, I.

Nov. 4. Neo-liberal Economic globalization, II.
H. Chang, “Lessons for the Present,” Kicking Away the Ladder pp. 125-141 (Presentation option);
B. Milanov “Winners and Losers: Increasing Dominance of the West,” Worlds Apart, pp. 61-71. (Presentation option)

Terrorism and Society, I
Nov. 9. Jeff Goodwin, “Theory of Categorical Terrorism,” Beginning of showing of Battle of Algiers
Short papers due
Nov. 11 Completion of showing of Battle of Algiers
Nov. 23. M. S. Doran, “Somebody Else’s Civil War”

J. C. GORNICK AND MARCIA K. MEYERS
Creating Gender Egalitarian Societies: An Agenda for Reform*

Nov. 30. U.S. Health Care Policy


*Long paper due Dec. 8, Noon; Take-home due Dec. 10, 5:00 PM (Afternoon of official exam data)*