

Political Sociology

SOCY S233
Summer 2020

Class meets Monday, Wednesday, Friday
June 29 – July 31, 2020

Instructor: Huseyin Rasit
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Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING ONLINE TEACHING

Due to the situation caused by the coronavirus, we are switching to online teaching this summer. I do not anticipate this causing any significant change to our course. As you will see below, our course revolves around readings, participation, and written assignments. The assignment load is not heavy; and they are take-home, giving you the convenience of completing them at home and uploading to Canvas. In terms of participation, we will use Zoom meetings to hold virtual real-time classes. I will upload ALL readings to Canvas in electronic format so that you will not have to risk yourselves or delivery workers to receive books. Please email me if you have any questions and concerns.

Course Description

In its essence, political sociology is the study of social power. Because the modern state has come to occupy our imaginations with its vast reservoir of power, social power is also commonly associated with it. But power is produced and sustained in a wider field well beyond the state. It operates through class, race, gender-based systems of domination, both structurally and in everyday interactions. It has been shaped in the modern history by the processes of capitalism and nation-state formation. Internationally, it has been skewed heavily towards the West through imperial and colonial domination. Some of these elements and processes are commonly ignored when discussing political sociology and power. We will instead problematize both the notion of power and the ways within which it operates. The aim here is to broaden our lenses beyond the naturalized understandings we possess today about state, capitalism, and international structures while acquiring the knowledge of the foundational concepts of political sociology.

We will start with an investigation of power and domination. What does power mean? How does it operate exactly? How does domination occur; how is it sustained? We will then move onto investigating the different axes of domination: class, race, and gender. We will attempt to understand how these axes structure power relations, and how they are interconnected. The second half of the course will focus on significant historical processes in the modern history. It will proceed through four main parts: a) state, state-formation, and nation; b) capitalism and market society; c) colonialism and imperialism; and d) resistance, revolutions, and social movements. As we will analyze these broad topics, we will constantly keep in mind that state-

formation, capitalism, imperialism, and colonialism are not independent processes but have been reinforcing and reproducing each other in the last several centuries. We will also discuss, in Ursula Le Guin's words, how all systems of power are human products, and thus, can be changed through human actions.

The class format will be a mixture of lectures, discussions, and debates. We will start each class with a short lecture about the social and intellectual context of the writers, their main arguments, and how they are tied to other works and general themes of the course. We will then engage in discussions about the texts and sometimes form debate groups to explore specific topics. These will help you to process, understand, and apply the readings to the questions the course explores and to your own broader intellectual interests.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is entirely mandatory. Due to the special nature of the summer session, no unexcused absence is allowed. If you need to go to Yale Health or hospital, resulting in your absence, you need to have them contact me. Other extreme reasons unrelated to your personal health should be discussed with me in advance. Please note that there is no Dean's excuse during the summer session, and any case of repeated absence must be reported to the Dean's Office.

Course Requirements

Attendance and participation (20%): Direct engagement with the texts and in-depth discussion are essential to get the most out of this course. Therefore, attendance and active participation are key components. Students are expected to do all the readings before the class and come prepared to discuss the material. We will emulate a physical class environment using Zoom. In order to give you more time and space to immerse yourselves in the texts, I am keeping other assignments to a minimum.

Discussion questions (10%): You will post a discussion question/comment to Canvas before each class. This can be about an aspect of the text that fascinates you, something that you need clarification or further discussion in the class, or a response to comments/questions written by your fellow students. This should not be a long text and should not take much time as long as you do the readings.

Weekly reflection (10%): At the end of each week (except the last one), you will post a reflection on that week's readings by connecting them to a contemporary event or situation around the world. After a short description of the event/situation chosen, you will analyze and interpret it through the lenses of the readings of the week. You can also choose to criticize the readings by using the empirics of the event/situation. This assignment is not meant to be much longer than one page.

1 mid-term paper (4-5 double-spaced pages, 20%): The mid-term paper is meant to be an engagement with the works in the first half of the course. I will distribute specific questions from which you will choose one to answer. You can also devise your own topic in consultation with me. The midterm will be due on Sunday, July 18.

1 final paper (10-12 double-spaced pages - 40%): The final paper will be a broader engagement with the course material. You will be given questions that cover several thinkers and topics. Some of the questions will be about theoretical engagement with the texts while others will be to apply what you have learned to real world events and situations. In the paper, you are expected to go beyond demonstrating comprehension of the material and to develop your own arguments about the texts, the ideas they present, and themes that link them together. The final paper is due on the last day of class (July 31).

Texts

The below is a representative list of books of which parts we will read. I will post **ALL** of the readings in electronic format to the course website.

The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. by Robert C. Tucker
Max Weber, From Max Weber, ed. by Gerth and Mills
Steven Lukes, Power: A Radical View
W. E. B. Du Bois, The Souls of Black Folk
Wendy Brown, States of Injury
V. I. Lenin, State and Revolution
Fred Block, Revisiting State Theory
Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol, Bringing the State Back in
Perry Anderson, Lineages of the Absolutist State
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities
Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation
David Harvey, A Brief History of Neoliberalism
Franz Fanon, Black Skin, White Masks
Eric Hobsbawm, Social Bandits and Primitive Rebels
Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Note on Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the standards prescribed in the Undergraduate Regulations publication (<http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/publications/uregs/appendix/cheating.html>) regarding cheating, plagiarism, and documentation. Appropriately using and documenting sources is an integral component of developing necessary professional and academic skills. Students are encouraged to access the resources available through the Writing Center website (<http://www.yale.edu/bass/writing/sources/why.html>) when preparing writing assignments. I am also always available to discuss these issues and help you throughout the coursework.

Disability Services

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require specific accommodations, please contact me (as well as the Resource Office on Disabilities, 203-432-2324), so that we can arrange the necessary accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE (Reading load subject to change depending on our progress)

Introduction, Power, Domination

***Introduction, Power* (There is a relatively heavier reading load in this first day in order to make a strong entry into the course. You should be fine if you give yourself enough time to make these readings before the summer session begins.)**

Day 1: Monday, June 29

- Lukes, Steven. "Introduction" and "Power: A Radical View," in *Power: A Radical View*, pp. 1-59.
- Gaventa, John. "Power and Participation," in *Power and Powerlessness*, pp. 3-25.
- Foucault, Michel. "The Power and Subject." *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 8, No. 4 (Summer, 1982), pp. 777-795

Day 2: Wednesday, July 1

Domination

- Weber, Max. "The Types of Authority and Imperative Co-ordination," in *Theory of Social and Economic Organization*, pp. 324-333, 341-46, 358-373.
- Weber, Max. *From Max Weber*. "Politics as a Vocation," pp. 77-87.
- Hall, Stuart. "Gramsci and US." Available at <http://inclusion.uci.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2016/11/Hall-Gramsci-and-US.pdf>

Class, Race, Gender

Day 3: Friday, July 3

Class

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. "Manifesto of the Communist Party," focus on pp. 469-491.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," pp. 594-617.
- Weber, Max. *From Max Weber*. "Class, Status, Party," pp. 180-195.

Day 4: Monday, July 6

Race

- Du Bois, W. E. B. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” and “Of the Sons of Master and Man,” in *The Souls of Black Folk*.
- Hall, Stuart. “Race, Articulation, and Societies Structured in Dominance,” in Baker Jr., Diawara, and Lindeborg (eds), *Black British Cultural Studies*. Available at <http://ccs.ukzn.ac.za/files/Race,%20articulation%20and%20societies%20structured%20in%20dominance.pdf>

Day 5: Wednesday, July 8

Gender

- Collins, Patricia Hill, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and Politics of Empowerment (1st edition)*. “Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination.” Available at <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/252.html>
- Zerilli, Linda M. G. “Politics,” in *the Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory*, pp. 632-650.
- Bettie, Julie. “Women without Class,” in *Women without Class: Girls, Race, and Identity*, pp. 32-56.

State, State-Formation, and Nation

Day 6: Friday, July 10

State

- Lenin, V. I. “Class Society and the State,” in *State and Revolution*, pp. 41-58.
- Block, Fred. “The Ruling Class Does Not Rule: Notes on the Marxist Theory of the State,” in *Revising State Theory*, pp. 51-68.
- Mann, Michael. “The Autonomous Power of the State,” *European Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (1984), pp. 185-213.
- Brown, Wendy. “Finding the Man in the State,” in *States of Injury*, pp. 166-196

Day 7: Monday, July 13

State-Making

- Anderson, Perry. “Conclusions,” in *Lineages of the Absolutist State*, pp. 397-431.
- Tilly, Charles. “War Making and State Making as Organized Crime,” in *Bringing the State Back in*, pp. 169-191.
- Adams, Julia. “Culture in Rational-Choice Theories of State-Formation,” in *State/Culture*, pp. 98-116.

Day 8: Wednesday, July 15

Nation and Nationalism

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*, pp. 1-46.
- Yuval-Davis, Nira. “Theorizing Gender and Nation,” in *Gender and Nation*, pp. 1-25.

- Chatterjee, Partha. “Whose Imagined Community?” in *The Nation and Its Fragments*, pp. 3-13.

Day 9: Friday, July 17

Immigration and Citizenship

- Somers, Margaret R. “Citizenship, Statelessness and Market Fundamentalism: Arendtian Right to Have Rights.” Pp. 35-62 in *Migration, Citizenship, Ethnos*, edited by Y. M. Bodemann and G. Yurdakul. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Choo, Hae Yeon, “Decentering Citizenship,” “Everyday Politics of Immigration Raids,” and “Coda,” in *Decentering Citizenship*, pp. 1-14, 72-92, and 164-171.

MIDTERM DUE: SUNDAY, JULY 19

Capitalism and Market Society

Day 10: Monday, July 20

Analysis of Capitalism

- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts,” pp. 66-105.
- Marx, Karl. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. “Capital, Volume One,” focus on pp. 303-367.

Day 11: Wednesday, July 22

Market Society and Neoliberalism

- Polanyi, Karl. “Introduction,” “Societies and Economic Systems,” and “The Self-Regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land and Money,” in *The Great Transformation*, pp. xviii-xxxviii, 45-58, 71-80.
- Harvey, David. 2005. “Introduction” and “Freedom’s Just Another Word...” in *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, pp. 1-38.

Colonialism and Imperialism

Day 12: Friday, July 24

Colonialism

- Fanon, Frantz. “Introduction,” “The So-Called Dependency Complex of Colonized Peoples,” and “The Fact of Blackness,” in *Black Skin, White Masks*.
- Césaire, Aimé. “Discourse on Colonialism.” Available at http://abahlali.org/files/Discourse_on_Colonialism.pdf
- Wolfe, Patrick. “Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native.” *Journal of Genocide Research*, Vol. 8, No. 4. (2006): 387-409.

Day 13: Monday, July 27

Imperialism

- Lenin, V. I. *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. Skim the first six chapters (33-90). Focus on Chps. 7-10 (pp. 91-123).
- Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. pp. 3-19.
- Reeves, Jeffrey. "Imperialism and the Middle Kingdom: The Xi Jinping Administration's Peripheral Diplomacy with Developing States," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 39, No. 5. (2018): 976-998.

Resistance, Revolutions and Social Movements

Day 14: Wednesday, July 29

Resistance and Revolutions

- Freire, Paulo. "Chapter 1," in *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, pp 43-69.
- James, C. L. R. [1963] 1989. *The Black Jacobins* – Selections

Day 15: Friday, July 31

Social Movements

- Della Porta, Donatella, and Mario Diani. "The Study of Social Movements," in *Social Movements: An Introduction*, pp. 1-32.
- Robnett, Belinda. "Rethinking Social Movement Theory: Race, Class, Gender, and Culture," in *How Long? How Long?: African American Women in the Struggle for Civil Rights*, pp. 12-35.

FINAL PAPER DUE: FRIDAY, July 31