

## Political Sociology

Fall 2012

Office Hours: T 2:15-4:30

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Political sociologists study the influence of social forces on formal politics, as well as politics in non-formalized settings. We will study three of the classic debates within political sociology: on the influence of business interests in capitalist democracies, on how social cleavages influence vote choice, and on how to define power.

### Required Books (ordered at Norris bookstore and on reserve at library)

Barrow, Clyde W. Critical Theories of the State.

Canaday, Margot. The Straight State.

Clawson, Dan, Alan Neustadt, and Mark Weller. Dollars and Votes.

Evans, Rueschemeyer, Skocpol. Bringing the State Back In.

Gaventa, John. Power and Powerlessness

Lukes, Steven. Power: A Radical View. Second Edition. NOTE: please make sure you are using the *Second* Edition.

Scott, James C. Domination and the Arts of Resistance.

Scott, James C. The Art of Not Being Governed.

Smith, Mark. American Business and Political Power.

### Recommended Books (on reserve at library)

Dahl, Robert. Who Governs? Yale University Press

Domhoff, William. Who Rules America?

Downs, Anthony. An Economic Theory of Democracy. Addison-Wesley.

Manza, Jeff, and Clem Brooks. Social Cleavages and Political Change.

### Course Requirements

This course is a seminar and requires active participation from all members. Students are asked to submit short comments on the readings each week (due by 5 PM each Sunday on Blackboard, Tools→Discussion Board→ “discussion questions for [date]”); to take a final exam OR to submit a 12-15 pp critical analysis of one or a few readings with an optional empirical component (due by 10AM on Dec 10, over email); and to participate in discussion every week, including leading the class discussion one week.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarists will automatically fail the course, and will also be subject to disciplinary action. If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the student handbook. You are responsible for knowing and following the rules presented there.

### Appointments

To make an appointment during office hours, please go to the following URL (for a clickable version of this link, please download the syllabus from Blackboard). You may sign up for as many 15-minute sessions as you need.

<https://www.google.com/calendar/selfsched?sstoken=UUQtamE3OGNvLXprfGRlZmF1bHR8OWY4NWm5OTY4N2M1NjA0ZDY5NzY0YzMI1NDVmZGI4MDg>

### Schedule of Readings

Required books are available for purchase at Norris and are on reserve at the library. All other required readings (book chapters and articles) are available on Blackboard, under “Documents.” Recommended articles are on Blackboard, and recommended books are on reserve at the library.

	Topic	Required Readings	Recommended Readings
October 1	Introduction	--	
October 8	Political Sociology at Mid-Century	Dahl, <u>Who Governs?</u> ch. 1, 8, 27, 28 Downs, <u>An Economic Theory of Democracy</u> , ch. 1, 8, 14, 16	James Buchanan and Gordon Tullock, <u>The Calculus of Consent</u>
October 15	Who Rules? Money in Politics I	Barrow, <u>Critical Theories of the State</u> , chapters 1, 2, 5	Orloff and Skocpol, “Why Not Equal Protection?” Quadagno, “Welfare Capitalism and the Social Security Act of 1935” Skocpol and Amenta, “Did Capitalists Shape Social Security?” Quadagno, “Two Models of Welfare State Development”
October 22	Money in Politics II	Smith, <u>American Business and Political Power</u> , ch.1-2, 6-7 Clawson et al., <u>Dollars and Votes</u> , chs.1-3, 5-6 Val Burris, “Corporations, Capitalists, and Campaign Finance”	Larry Bartels, <u>Unequal Democracy</u>
October 29	The State	Mann, Michael, “The Autonomous Power of the State” <u>Bringing the State Back In</u> , chapters 1-5, 11	Daniel Ziblatt, <u>Structuring the State</u> William Novak, “The Myth of the Weak American State”
November 5	Social Affiliations and Politics	Manza and Brooks, <u>Social Cleavages and Political Change</u> , chs. 1-2 + 4 articles	[coverage of the presidential election, TBD]

November 12	The Faces of Power Debate	Bachrach and Baratz, "The Two Faces of Power" John Gaventa, Power and Powerlessness, ch.1, conclusion to 3, ch 4, ch 6, conclusion to 7, ch 8, ch 10 Lukes, Power (2nd ed) – ch.1	Susan Moller Okin, <u>Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?</u>
November 19	Power and Resistance	James Scott, Domination and the Arts of Resistance, chs. 3-4, 6-7 Lukes, Power (2nd ed) – pp. 88-107, 124-151	James Scott, Weapons of the Weak [also available online through NUCAT]
November 26	Social History of the State	Margot Canaday, <u>The Straight State</u> [also available online through NUCAT]	Anthony Chen, <u>The Fifth Freedom</u>
December 3	Statelessness	James Scott, <u>Art of Not Being Governed</u>	David Graeber, <u>Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology</u>

Final exams or papers due:

December 10, 10AM, by email, to [m-prasad@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-prasad@northwestern.edu)