

Course: Political Sociology (SO7400)
Instructor: Daniel Ritter (daniel.ritter@sociology.su.se)
Office: B944
Stockholm University
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CONTENT

The course provides an overview of political sociology as a subdiscipline, focusing on a few central topics. Thus, rather than seeking to provide students with a complete understanding of the subfield, the central aim of the course is to introduce students to political sociology – including its possibilities, promises, and shortcomings – through a series of “workshop seminars” designed to promote student thinking and understanding.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to have achieved the following.

- In terms of knowledge and understanding:
 - Be familiar with central tenets in political sociology
 - Understand the meaning of central concepts and theories in political sociology
- In terms of skills and abilities:
 - Be able to account for and analyze texts in political sociology in a clear, articulate and convincing manner
 - Be able to apply relevant concepts and theories from political sociology in order to analyze political phenomena
- In terms of approach to the literature
 - Be able to critically assess texts in political sociology in terms of their strengths and weaknesses

INSTRUCTION

The course is provided at part-time basis, from 21 March to 5 June and will be taught as an American-style graduate seminar without instructor-led lectures. This form of teaching and learning depends on active student participation. Students are therefore expected to complete the readings prior to class and will take turns submitting questions (in groups) on Athena no less than two working days prior to class. The students submitting the questions for a given seminar will then lead that seminar discussion. Attendance is required and mandatory.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Weekday	Date	Time	Topic	Room
Thursday	21/3	09:00-12:00	Introduction	B800
Thursday	4/4	13:00-16:00	Power	B900
Friday	5/4	09:00-12:00	Empires and Nation States	B800
Tuesday	16/4	13:00-16:00	The State	B800
Wednesday	17/4	09:00-12:00	Political Participation	B800
Monday	29/4	13:00-16:00	Revolutions	B800
Tuesday	30/4	09:00-12:00	Social Movements	B800
Friday	17/5	09:00-12:00	Globalization and Transnationalism	B800

EXAMINATION

Students are required to complete a 4000-word course paper relevant to the field of political sociology, in which the student formulates a research puzzle, proposes a theoretical answer, and reviews the relevant literature. Please see evaluation criteria for assessment. The course paper is due in Athena, 5 June by 17:00.

To pass the course students are required to pass the paper assignment, attend class, lead and participate in the seminar discussion, and post reading questions on Athena. In case of missed classes, students must individually submit supplementary written responses to the discussion questions (1500-2000) words. Students may not submit more than two written responses. All supplementary assignments should be submitted together with the course paper by June 5, 17:00. A student who misses more than two seminars will not be graded.

EVALUATION AND ASSESMENT CRITERIA

The course work is graded on a scale of seven grades (A, B, C, D, E, Fx and F). To pass the course, the student must receive no less than an E on the course paper *and* a passing grade on participation. In other words, it is not possible to pass the course without passing the participation dimension of it. In case of Fx on the paper, students may at the discretion of the instructor be allowed to revise one of the sections that have received a failing grade so that the grade of E can be achieved.

Grade distribution:

Participation: 50% (pass/fail based on leadership at one seminar and active/meaningful contribution at all other seminars)

Course paper: 50% (graded, see below)

Assessment criteria for the course paper:

	Research puzzle and justification	Theoretical solution	Literature review
Good (3 points)	Clearly formulated and theoretically relevant with convincing anchoring in the literature	Grounded in political sociology, theoretically convincing and plausible	Comprehensive, critical, and relevant
Pass (2 points)	Clearly formulated and theoretically relevant with reasonable anchoring in the literature	Grounded in political sociology, theoretically reasonable and plausible	General, critical, and relevant
Fail (1 point)	Clearly formulated and theoretically relevant with weak anchoring in the literature	Not grounded in political sociology, theoretically unconvincing, implausible	Partial, uncritical, and/or irrelevant

Paper grades are awarded as follows:

- A: 9 points
- B: 8 points
- C: 7 points
- D: 6 points
- E: 5 points
- Fx: 4 points
- F: 3

REQUIRED READINGS

Main course text: Clemens, Elisabeth S. 2016. *What is Political Sociology*. Cambridge, UK: Polity.

1. Introduction (21/3)

Clemens (Introduction)

Weber, Max. 1919. *Politics as a Vocation*. Available in the public domain, for instance [here](#).

2. Power (4/4)

Clemens (Chapter 1)

Adams, Julia. 1994. "The Familial State: Elite Family Practices and State-Making in the Early Modern Netherlands." *Theory and Society* 23(4): 505-39

Bourdieu, Pierre. 1994. "Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure in the Bureaucratic Field." *Sociological Theory* 12(1): 1-18.

Mann, Michael. 1986. *The Sources of Social Power: A History of Power from the Beginning to AD 1760* (Vol. 1). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Chapter 2)

3. Empires and Nation States (5/4)

Clemens (Chapter 2)

Meyer, John W., John Boli, George M. Thomas, and Francisco O. Ramirez. 1997. "World society and the nation-state." *American Journal of Sociology* 103(1): 144-181.

Tilly, Charles. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." Pp. 169-191 in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, & T. Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Woodberry, Robert D. 2012. "The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy." *American Political Science Review* 106(2): 244-274.

4. The State (16/4)

Clemens (Chapter 5)

Barker, Vanessa. 2017. "Penal Power at the Border: Realigning State and Nation?" *Theoretical Criminology* 21(4): 441–457.

Esping-Andersen, Gøsta. 1990. "The Three Political Economies of the Welfare State." *International Journal of Sociology* 20(3): 92-123.

Orloff, Ann Shola. (2009). "Gendering the Comparative Analysis of Welfare States: An Unfinished Agenda." *Sociological Theory* 27(3): 317-343.

Skocpol, Theda. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research." Pp. 3-37 in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, & T. Skocpol. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

5. Political Participation (17/4)

Clemens (Chapter 4)

Rydgren, Jens and Sara van der Meiden. 2019. "The Radical Right and the End of Swedish Exceptionalism." *European Political Science* 18, 439–455 (2019).

Eliasoph, Nina. 1997. "'Close to Home': The Work of Avoiding Politics." *Theory and Society* 26(5): 605-47.

Charrad, Mounira M. 2011. "Gender in the Middle East: Islam, States, Agency." *Annual Review of Sociology* 37: 417-37.

6. Revolutions (29/4)

Clemens (Chapter 3)

Beck, Colin J. 2014. "Reflections on the revolutionary wave in 2011." *Theory and Society* 43(2): 197-223.

Goldstone, Jack A. 2001. "Toward a fourth generation of revolutionary theory." *Annual Review of Political Science* 4(1): 139-187.

Ritter, Daniel P. 2015. *The Iron Cage of Liberalism: International Politics and Unarmed Revolutions in the Middle East and North Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (Chs 1 and 7)

Skocpol, Theda. 1976. "France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions". *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 18(2): 175-210.

7. Social movements (30/4)

Clemens (Chapter 6)

Della Porta, Donatella, and Mario Diani. 2020. *Social Movements: An Introduction*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell. (Chapter 1)

Goodwin, Jeff, Jasper, James M. 1999. "Caught in a Winding, Snarling Vine: The Structural Bias of Political Process Theory." *Sociological Forum* 14: 27–54.

McCarthy, John D., and Mayer N. Zald. 1977. "Resource mobilization and social movements: A partial theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 82(6): 1212-1241.

Snow, David A., E. Burke Rochford Jr, Steven K. Worden, and Robert D. Benford. 1986. "Frame alignment processes, micromobilization, and movement participation." *American Sociological Review*: 464-481.

8. Globalization and transnationalism (17/5)

Clemens (Chapter 7)

Bartley, Tim. 2018. "Transnational Corporations and Global Governance." *Annual Review of Sociology* 44:145–65.

Keck, Margaret E. & Sikkink, Kathryn. 1999. "Transnational Advocacy Networks in International and Regional Politics." *International Social Science Journal* 51(159): 89-101.

Lawson, George. 2015. "Revolutions and the International." *Theory and Society* 44(4): 299-319.

Markoff, John. 2013. "Democracy's Past Transformations, Present Challenges, and Future Prospects." *International Journal of Sociology* 43(2): 13-40.

Legend

Book (available in the campus bookshop, limited copies in the library)

Chapter (from e-book, available through the library's website)

Article (from journal available through the library's website)

Website