

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
SYO 4300-23C7 (class # 25168)
3 credits, 100% traditional (in person)
Fall 2023

CLASS: Mon, Wed, Fri, period 6 (12:50 – 1:40 p.m.), Anderson Hall, room # 0013

Instructor: Dr. Alin M. Ceobanu, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
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Office Hours: Mon & Wed 9:30-10:30 a.m. and Fri 11:40 a.m.-12:40 p.m. (drop in) & by appointment
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Course Objectives, Topic and Goals:

This *3 credit-hour course, delivered 100% traditionally (in person)*, satisfies three credits of Gen Ed: Social Science. In this course, students will learn key theoretical and conceptual themes used by political sociologists to understand and interpret the interplay between social and political phenomena in the United States and around the globe. Thus, students will learn how basic social processes and structures affect the political realm, and, reciprocally, how dynamics within politics have an impact on the society at large.

The **first objective** of this class is to introduce students to a variety of theories, approaches, perspectives and debates on the social contexts in which power structures and processes are manifest. The **second objective** is to comparatively analyze the political embedding of the societal spheres (e.g., the government, the state, the economy, the military, the media, or the civil society). We will look at several important theoretical problems (for example: the bases of power and legitimacy, ideology as a form of propaganda and control, political participation and elite domination, media content and political interests, representation via social movements, etc.) and case studies (e.g., Western pluralist societies, elite-negotiated political transitions in the former communist countries of Europe, supra-national political institutions, or globalization).

Regarding specific **learning goals** for this course, by the end of this class, students will be able to:

- (a) identify the main issues related to power structures and the diffusion of power within the society;
- (b) critically evaluate the Political Sociology models;
- (c) incorporate these models into the analysis of institutions and states as systems of control;
- (d) assess the various uses of political power from the perspective of globalization;
- (e) evaluate the socio-political impact of the new social movements;
- (f) apply the concepts and perspectives encompassed by Political Sociology when interpreting contemporary socio-political phenomena.

This course also has an **international scope**. Students will be instructed on the values, attitudes and norms that are prevalent in the United States and around the globe. This will enable students to develop an understanding of how geographies and societal arrangements have a different impact on political cultures.

Through a comparative understanding and analysis of the American values and norms relative to those of other countries, students will be able to achieve a cross-national understanding of the dynamics in our 'global village.' Thus, we will see that Political Sociology is a growing field of study within social sciences covering, from a sociological perspective, a multitude of topics about power, state formation, political participation, electoral outcomes, voting behavior, revolutions, or globalization. Because power is omnipresent in human societies, the examination of power structures and processes constitutes the focus of this course. Some of the questions we will try to answer comparatively during this semester include: Who has the power? How is power acquired and for what purposes? What are the social bases of power? How is power used or administered? The course will therefore give you the tools needed to critically evaluate/analyze contemporary socio-political events.

Student learning outcomes include the following:

- (a) helping them understand the changing theoretical and empirical context that is used in the interpretation of power structures in the United States and in other countries;
- (b) helping them assess the relevancy of (or discrepancy between) the perspectives offered by political sociologists and your own interpretations of the Political Sociology topics (based on your own experiences and background);
- (c) helping them understand the diverse manifestations of socio-political processes in the American society, as well as in other societies around the world.

In this course, students will learn about various theoretical and conceptual frameworks used by sociologists to examine social problems in the United States and in other parts of the world. Thus, students will learn how to frame questions about social issues deemed as "problems," when certain processes and structures become social problems, and what strategies to address social problems are available to policy makers.

This class makes extensive use of Canvas/e-Learning (<http://elearning.ufl.edu>). You are responsible for regularly checking e-Learning for updates, instructions, posted lecture notes, and many other resources. The UF Computing Help Desk (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>) is available to help troubleshoot technical issues.

Required Texts:

- Neuman, W. Lawrence. 2008. *Power, State and Society: An Introduction to Political Sociology*. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press, Inc. (**hereafter LN**)
- Tarrow, Sidney. 2011. *Power in Movement. Social Movements and Contentious Politics*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. (**hereafter ST**)

Lecture presentations (in PDF), as well as other class materials, will be posted by the instructor in the course's Canvas shell.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

➤ **Class Attendance, Participation and Excused Absences:**

Class attendance is expected -- participation in classroom activities is an important component of the learning process, counting as 5% of your final grade. *Assigned readings must be completed before class time.* Students are

strongly encouraged to attend lectures on a regular basis, given that class participation facilitates understanding of the topics.

Medical situations must be documented appropriately (e.g., a signed physician’s form) to be excused. Consistent with university regulations, make-up work will be allowed in the case of excused absences, as defined by UF attendance policies (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

➤ **Tests:**

Students will be tested periodically on their knowledge of information from the required readings and lectures. The dates of the three regular tests (in class, in paper format, closed book) are included in the syllabus. Tests will consist of three parts: multiple choice questions, identifications (definitions), and short essays. The second and third tests are non-cumulative. Each test counts as 25% towards the final grade. Students who must miss a test for reasons of religious observation should contact the instructor during the first two-three weeks of the semester.

➤ **Analytical Paper:**

For this class, students will write a cogent analytical paper, 6-7 pages in length (excluding the reference list and the cover page). They will analyze a particular social phenomenon that interests them and which covers the subject matter of this course (Political Sociology), and formulate a specific research question. They will then develop an explanatory argument centered on the research question by using a variety of academic sources (like journal articles and book chapters from edited volumes). The introductory paragraphs should make clear the paper’s topical focus and research question. Try to present a broad perspective on the topic rather than a series of individual snapshots. Do not forget to include a concluding section.

The paper should contain proper citations of references in the text, as well as a list of references for all the information you take from other authors. Failure to acknowledge these external sources both in the text and in the reference list constitutes plagiarism. The desired format of citation is the American Sociological Association’s style. Papers should be double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pitch font, with 1-inch margins. Pages should be numbered. Provide a cover page with the topic or title of your paper, your name and UF ID, course name (Political Sociology) and heading (SYO 4300-23C7, class # 25168), the date, and professor’s name (Alin M. Ceobanu). Papers are due at class time (12:50 p.m.), in print, on Monday, November 13, 2023. An electronic copy of the paper needs to be uploaded in Canvas. After this deadline, one partial grade (e.g., an A paper would be given an A-) will be deducted for papers that are turned in late on November 13, 2023. Additionally, a full letter grade will be taken off for each a day of tardiness. Extensions will be given in the case of medical emergencies or religious observance – see UF attendance policies. The analytical paper counts as 20% towards your final grade.

➤ **Grading Distribution:**

The course grades are based on individual performance and are determined by each student’s ranking in the class. The following grading scheme will be used:

Class participation.....	5%
First test	25%
Second test (non-cumulative).....	25%
Third test (non-cumulative).....	25%
Analytical paper.....	20%

➤ Grading Scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A	≥ 92.0	C	72.0 – 77.9
A-	90.0 – 91.9	C-	70.0 – 71.9
B+	88.0 – 89.9	D+	68.0 – 69.9
B	82.0 – 87.9	D	62.0 – 67.9
B-	80.0 – 81.9	D-	60.0 – 61.9
C+	78.0 – 79.9	E	≤ 59.9

COURSE POLICIES

➤ Cell Phones, Laptop Computers and Tablets:

Please silence your cell phones before coming to class. This will avoid the disruption of loud ring tones. The use of electronic devices for taking notes or, on rare occasions, looking up information is allowed; however, students are strongly encouraged to consider taking hand-written notes, if possible. Laptops and tablets can be a source of distraction (for you and your classmates around you), so please be mindful and respectful.

➤ Academic Honesty:

All students registered at the University of Florida have agreed to comply with the following statement: *“I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.”*

In addition, on all work submitted for credit the following pledge is either required or implied: *“On my honor I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

All course work, including written assignments like the analytical paper, must be your original and individual work. Any cheating or plagiarism, including copying of online materials without clear attribution or use of AI-based applications, will result in a failing grade and disciplinary action. You are responsible for keeping back-up files of your written assignments, including the analytical paper, which must also be submitted electronically on E-Learning to be checked using Turnitin.

➤ In-Class Recording:

Per UF policies, students are permitted to record video or audio of class lectures, although the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams),

field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

➤ Online Evaluation Policy:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>). Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu.

➤ Classroom Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

➤ COVID-19:

Students are encouraged to stay informed about current risk levels and the university’s and other health recommendations (including wearing masks and being current on vaccinations). If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated. Students with excused absences will have access to the course materials, including lecture presentations, in Canvas, and they will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

➤ Health and Wellness Resources:

For students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of health care or other support:

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website (<https://umatter.ufl.edu/>) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* Visit the Counseling & Wellness Center website (<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis and non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website (<https://shcc.ufl.edu/>).
- *University Police Department:* Visit UF Police Department website (<https://police.ufl.edu/>) or call 352-392-1111 (or 911 for emergencies).

- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website (<https://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center>).

➤ Academic Resources:

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk online (<https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>), by phone at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center (<https://career.ufl.edu/>): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Ask-A-Librarian (<https://uflib.ufl.edu/find/ask/>): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- Academic Resources (<https://academicresources.clas.ufl.edu/>): 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, general study.
- Writing Studio (<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers

Critical Dates:

Sep 4 (Mon)	<i>Labor Day, no class</i>
Sep 25 (Mon)	Test 1
Oct 6 (Fri)	<i>Homecoming, no class</i>
Oct 27 (Fri)	Test 2
Nov 10 (Fri)	<i>Veterans Day, no class</i>
Nov 13 (Mon)	Analytical paper due
Nov 22 (Wed)	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>
Nov 24 (Fri)	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>
Dec 6 (Wed)	Test 3

Course Schedule:

Meeting Date	Topic(s)	Readings, Assignments, Due Dates
Week 1		
Wed, Aug 23	Introduction, course overview, syllabus	NO READINGS
Fri, Aug 25	Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle	LN 1-11
Week 2		
Mon, Aug 28	Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle	LN 11-27
Wed, Aug 30	Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology	LN 83-97
Fri, Sep 1	Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology	LN 97-118

Week 3

****Mon, Sep 4 LABOR DAY, no class**

Wed, Sep 6	Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State	LN 31-45
Fri, Sep 8	Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State	LN 45-57

Week 4

Mon, Sep 11	Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State	LN 57-77
Wed, Sep 13	The Polity of the United States	LN 121-138
Fri, Sep 15	The Polity of the United States	LN 138-168

Week 5

Mon, Sep 18	Political Involvement and Conflict in the US	LN 173-195
Wed, Sep 20	Political Involvement and Conflict in the US	LN 195-220
Fri, Sep 22	Political Ideas and Beliefs	LN 285-329

Week 6

Mon, Sep 25 TEST 1

Wed, Sep 27	Cultural Institutions and Tolerance	LN 335-354
Fri, Sep 29	Cultural Institutions and Tolerance	LN 355-383

Week 7

Mon, Oct 2	Law, Crime, and Control	LN 389-408
Wed, Oct 4	Law, Crime, and Control	LN 408-436
**Fri, Oct 6	HOME COMING, no class	

Week 8

Mon, Oct 9	Protest and Movements	LN 227-252
Wed, Oct 11	Protest and Movements	LN 252-272
Fri, Oct 13	Political Opportunities and Threats	ST 157-169

Week 9

Mon, Oct 16	Political Opportunities and Threats	ST 170-180
Wed, Oct 18	Acting Contentiously	ST 95-105
Fri, Oct 20	Acting Contentiously	ST 105-118

Week 10

Mon, Oct 23	Making Meanings	ST 140-149
Wed, Oct 25	Making Meanings	ST 149-156
Fri, Oct 27	TEST 2	

Week 11

Mon, Oct 30	Networks and Organizations	ST 119-129
Wed, Nov 1	Networks and Organizations	ST 129-139
Fri, Nov 3	Cycles of Contention	ST 195-204

Week 12

Mon, Nov 6	Cycles of Contention	ST 204-214
Wed, Nov 8	Struggling to Reform	ST 215-233
**Fri, Nov 10	VETERANS DAY, no class	

Week 13

Mon, Nov 13	Film screening	
	<u>Analytical paper due</u>	
Wed, Nov 15	Transnational Contention	ST 234-248
Fri, Nov 17	New Social Movements	ST 248-258

Week 14

Mon, Nov 20	Film screening	
**Wed, Nov 22	THANKSGIVING, no class	
**Fri, Nov 24	THANKSGIVING, no class	

Week 15

Mon, Nov 27	The Politics of Business Policy	LN 441-468
Wed, Nov 29	The Politics of Business Policy	LN 468-492
Fri, Dec 1	Social Programs and Policies	LN 497-530

Week 16

Mon, Dec 4	Social Programs and Policies	LN 530-549
Wed, Dec 6	TEST 3	