

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
SYO 4300-23C7 (class # 26684)
3 credits, 100% traditional (face-to-face)
Fall 2022

CLASS: Mon, Wed, Fri, period 6 (12:50 – 1:40 p.m.), Turlington Hall, room # 2322

Instructor: Dr. Alin M. Ceobanu, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law
Office: 3338 Turlington Hall
Office Phone: (352) 294-7170
Office Hours: Mon & Fri: 9:30-10:30 a.m.; Wed: 1:45-2:45 p.m. (**in-person, conditional on COVID-19 protocol**) & by appointment
E-mail: aceobanu@ufl.edu (**PLEASE USE THIS E-MAIL TO CONTACT ME DIRECTLY RATHER THAN THE CANVAS SYSTEM**)

Course Objectives, Topic and Goals:

This 3 credit-hour course, delivered 100% traditional (face-to-face) and synchronously (in real time) 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](#). You are responsible for regularly checking e-Learning for updates, discussions, instructions, posted lecture notes, and many other resources. The [UF Computing Help Desk](#) 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.

COVID-19 Policy:

In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.

- **If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated.** Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit [one.ufl](https://one.ufl.edu) for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities

- **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.

- As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.

COURSE POLICIES

➤ 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 in the undergraduate catalog, make-up work will be allowed in the case of excused absences, as defined by [UF attendance policies](#).

➤ Tests:

Students will be tested periodically on their knowledge of information from the required readings and lectures. The dates of the three regular 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. All tests are in class, in paper format, and closed-book. 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 or three weeks of the semester.

➤ Analytical Paper:

For this class, students will write a cogent analytical paper, 6-8 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 # 26684), the date, and professor's name (Alin M. Ceobanu). Papers are due at class time (12:50 p.m.), in print, on Monday, November 14, 2022. An electronic copy of the paper needs to be uploaded in Canvas. After this deadline, one partial grade will be deducted from papers that are turned in late (for example, an A paper would be given a A-). Another partial grade will be taken off for each additional 24 hours of tardiness. Extensions will be given

in the case of medical emergencies or religious observance – see by [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

UF POLICIES

➤ 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.

➤ Academic Honesty:

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The [Conduct Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

➤ 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](#). Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.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 under [GatorEvals](#).

➤ 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. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). 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.

➤ 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 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 or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as 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.
- *University Police Department:* Visit [UF Police Department](#) website 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.

➤ Academic Resources:

- *E-learning technical support:* Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) online, by phone at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Ask-A-Librarian](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Academic Resources](#): 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, general study.
- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers

Critical Dates:

Sep 5 (Mon)	<i>Labor Day, no class</i>
Sep 26 (Mon)	Test 1
Oct 7 (Fri)	<i>Homecoming, no class</i>
Oct 28 (Fri)	Test 2
Nov 11 (Fri)	<i>Veterans Day, no class</i>
Nov 14 (Mon)	Analytical paper due
Nov 23 (Wed)	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>
Nov 25 (Fri)	<i>Thanksgiving, no class</i>
Dec 7 (Wed)	Test 3

Course Schedule:

Meeting Date	Topic(s)	Readings, Assignments, Due Dates
Week 1		
Wed, Aug 24	Introduction, course overview, syllabus	NO READINGS
Fri, Aug 26	Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle	LN 1-11
Week 2		
Mon, Aug 29	Power, the State, Hegemony, and Struggle	LN 11-27
Wed, Aug 31	Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology	LN 83-97
Fri, Sep 2	Theoretical Frameworks in Political Sociology	LN 97-118
Week 3		
<u>Mon, Sep 5</u>	<u>LABOR DAY, no class</u>	
Wed, Sep 7	Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State	LN 31-45
Fri, Sep 9	Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State	LN 45-57

Week 4

Mon, Sep 12	Democracy, Nationalism, and the Nation State	LN 57-77
Wed, Sep 14	The Polity of the United States	LN 121-138
Fri, Sep 16	The Polity of the United States	LN 138-168

Week 5

Mon, Sep 19	Political Involvement and Conflict in the US	LN 173-195
Wed, Sep 21	Political Involvement and Conflict in the US	LN 195-220
Fri, Sep 23	Political Ideas and Beliefs	LN 285-329

Week 6

Mon, Sep 26 TEST 1

Wed, Sep 28	Cultural Institutions and Tolerance	LN 335-354
Fri, Sep 30	Cultural Institutions and Tolerance	LN 355-383

Week 7

Mon, Oct 3	Law, Crime, and Control	LN 389-408
Wed, Oct 5	Law, Crime, and Control	LN 408-436
** <u>Fri, Oct 7</u>	<u>HOMECOMING, no class</u>	

Week 8

Mon, Oct 10	Protest and Movements	LN 227-252
Wed, Oct 12	Protest and Movements	LN 252-272
Fri, Oct 14	Political Opportunities and Constraints	ST 71-80

Week 9

Mon, Oct 17	Political Opportunities and Constraints	ST 81-90
Wed, Oct 19	Acting Contentiously	ST 91-98
Fri, Oct 21	Acting Contentiously	ST 98-105

Week 10

Mon, Oct 24	Framing Contention	ST 106-114
Wed, Oct 26	Framing Contention	ST 114-122
Fri, Oct 28	TEST 2	

Week 11

Mon, Oct 31	Mobilizing Structures and Contentious Politics	ST 123-131
Wed, Nov 2	Mobilizing Structures and Contentious Politics	ST 131-138
Fri, Nov 4	Cycles of Contention	ST 141-150

Week 12

Mon, Nov 7	Cycles of Contention	ST 150-160
Wed, Nov 9	Reforming Social Movements	ST 161-175
<i>**Fri, Nov 11 VETERANS DAY, no class</i>		

Week 13

Mon, Nov 14	Film screening	
	<u>Analytical paper due</u>	
Wed, Nov 16	Transnational Contention	ST 176-184
Fri, Nov 18	New Social Movements	ST 184-195

Week 14

Mon, Nov 21	Film screening	
<i>**Wed, Nov 23 THANKSGIVING, no class</i>		
<i>**Fri, Nov 25 THANKSGIVING, no class</i>		

Week 15

Mon, Nov 28	The Politics of Business Policy	LN 441-468
Wed, Nov 30	The Politics of Business Policy	LN 468-492
Fri, Dec 2	Social Programs and Policies	LN 497-530

Week 16

Mon, Dec 5	Social Programs and Policies	LN 530-549
Wed, Dec 7	TEST 3	