

Political Sociology

Course Description

An examination of social structure and politics: state creation and the growth of democracy, alignment and cleavage structure, ideology and values, party systems and voting, state and economy, political participation, legitimation and alienation, and protest and revolution. Case studies include: industrialism and working-class politics, the rise of Nazism in Germany, and party realignment in America.

LSU Description

SOCL 4421 Political Sociology (3)

Prereq.: SOCL 2001 or equivalent. Social structure and politics.

Required Reading will come from the following books:

Anthony M. Orum & John G. Dale, Introduction to Political Sociology (Oxford University Press; 5 edition, 2008, ISBN-13: 978-0195371154).

Elisabeth Clemens, What is Political Sociology? (Polity Press, 2016), 1<sup>st</sup> edition.  
ISBN-13: 978-0745691619

Russell Dalton, Citizen Politics: Public Opinion and Political Parties in Advanced Industrial Democracies, Sixth Edition (CQ Press, 2013). ISBN-13: 978-1452203003

Paul R. Abramson, John H. Aldrich, Brad T. Gomez and David W. Rohde, Change and Continuity in the 2012 and 2014 Elections (CQ Press, 2015). ISBN-13: 978-1506305875

Jan-Erik Lane and Svante O. Ersson, Politics and Society in Western Europe, Fourth Edition (Sage, 1999). ISBN 0761958622

Lawrence LeDuc, Richard G Niemi, Pippa Norris, Comparing Democracies: Elections and Voting in a Changing World, Fourth Edition (SAGE Publications, 2014), paperback, ISBN: 9781446281987

### Other Required Material:

Some additional articles and selections from books are required, as indicated in the weekly assignments. Some further required articles and materials will be available on or through my teaching web site – <http://www.rickweil.com/s4421/> – changes in assignments may also be made on the web site. The course lecture notes (not required) will also be available on my web site.

### Recommended Reading:

Russell J Dalton, The Apartisan American: Dealignment and Changing Electoral Politics, Paperback, CQ Press, 2012, ISBN: 978-1-4522-1694-2

Thomas Janoski, Robert R. Alford, Alexander M. Hicks, eds., The Handbook of Political Sociology: States, Civil Societies, and Globalization, hardcover, Cambridge University Press, 2005, ISBN-13: 978-0521526203

Edwin Amenta, Kate Nash, Alan Scott, eds., The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Political Sociology, Hardcover, Wiley-Blackwell, 2012, ISBN-13: 978-1444330939

E. J. Dionne, Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent (New York: Bloomsbury, 2012) ISBN-13: 978-1608194384

Martin P. Wattenberg, The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1996 (Harvard U. Press, 1998). ISBN-13: 978-0674194359

### Course Requirements:

Attendance at lectures, a midterm exam, and a final exam. You will be responsible for all readings, lecture information, and assigned materials on the course web site, including any updates at [www.fweil.com](http://www.fweil.com). You should also be familiar with the materials in the “2016 Election” at [www.fweil.com/Elections/2016/Election2016.html](http://www.fweil.com/Elections/2016/Election2016.html) (incl the Facebook page, “Polit Soc,” <https://www.facebook.com/polit.soc>), and “Trend Charts,” sections of the website. There will be several unannounced quizzes that may account for up to 10% of the grade. The course will consist partly of lectures and readings and partly of discussion. Students should always have read the assignments and come prepared for discussion.

Grade Scale:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 & below	F

Note: Updates to the syllabus and/or scheduling information will be posted on my website: [www.fweil.com](http://www.fweil.com), under the link for Sociology 4421. Students are responsible for staying informed of that information. My lecture notes and other helpful materials are available on my website. The lecture notes are optional, but attendance at lectures is still required.

AssignmentsPART I: THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDWeek 1. **Smith and Marx on Class Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 2.

Week 2. **Weber on State Analyses.**

Read Orum, ch. 3.

Week 3. **Tocqueville, Durkheim, & Parsons on Civil Society, Functionalism, and Pluralism.**

Read Orum, ch. 4.

Background Reading for Weeks 1-3:

Orum, ch. 1; Lane and Ersson, Introduction and ch. 1; LeDuc, Introduction.

PART II: SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND POLITICSWeek 4. **State Creation.**

- a. Centralized States
- b. Growth of Democracy

Read Orum, ch. 6, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Gandhi. Also:

Charles Tilly. 1985. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." Pages 169-91 in *Bringing the State Back In*. Ed. Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0 521 31313 9).

Linz, Juan J., and Alfred Stepan. 1996. "Toward Consolidated Democracies." *Journal of Democracy* 7(2):14-33.

Huntington, Samuel P. 1991. "Democracy's Third Wave." *Journal of Democracy* 2(2):12-34.

**Week 5. Alignment and Cleavage Structure.**

Read Dalton, ch. 8; Lane and Ersson, ch. 2.

**Week 6. Ideology and Values.**

Read Dalton, ch. 2, 5, 6; Lane and Ersson, ch. 9.

**Week 7. Party Systems and Voting.**

Read Dalton, ch. 7, 9, 10; LeDuc, chapters by Gallagher, Kitschelt, LeDuc/Niemi, Powell; Orum, ch. 9; Lane and Ersson, ch. 3-5.

**Week 8. State and Economy.**

- a. Welfare State
- b. Capitalism and Democracy
- c. Neo-Corporatism

Read Janoski, ch. 22, 25; Lane and Ersson, ch. 6, 7, 11; LeDuc, chapter by Kayser; Orum, ch. 7.

**Week 9. Political Participation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 3, 4; LeDuc, chapter by Hooghe; Orum, ch. 13.

Frederick Weil. 2011. "Rise of Community Organizations, Citizen Engagement, and New Institutions," in Amy Liu, Roland V. Anglin, Richard Mizelle, and Allison Plyer, editors, *Resilience and Opportunity: Lessons from the U.S. Gulf Coast after Katrina and Rita*, pp. 201-219. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

*Recommended:* Frederick Weil, 2012. "Can Citizens Affect Urban Policy? Blight Reduction in Post-Katrina New Orleans." Paper presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, New Orleans, August 31.

*Recommended:* Film clips at <http://www.lsu.edu/fweil/KatrinaDocumentary>

**Week 10. Legitimation and Alienation.**

Read Dalton, ch. 12; LeDuc, chapter by Norris; Also:

Frederick D. Weil. 1989. "The Sources and Structure of Legitimation in Western Democracies: A Consolidated Model Tested with Time-Series Data in Six Countries since World War II." American Sociological Review 54, 5:682-706. (cont. →)

Frederick D. Weil. 1994. "Political Culture, Political Structure and Democracy: The Case of Legitimation and Opposition Structure." Research on Democracy and Society, Vol. 2, Political Culture and Political Structure: Theoretical and Empirical Studies. JAI Press, Greenwich, CT (ISBN 1 55938 778 5).

*Recommended:* Russell J Dalton, The Apartisan American

**Week 11. Protest and Revolution.**

Read Orum, ch. 10; Lane and Ersson, ch. 10.

**PART III: THREE CASE STUDIES****Week 12. Industrialism and Working-Class Politics.**

Read: Lipset, Seymour Martin. 1983. "Radicalism or Reformism: The Sources of Working-Class Politics." American Political Science Review 77: 1-18. (Reprinted in Lipset, Consensus and Conflict, New Brunswick: Transaction, 1985, ISBN 0-88738-608-3).  
And:

Katznelson, Ira, "Working-Class Formation: Constructing Cases and Comparisons" (ch. 1) and Aristide R. Zolberg, "How Many Exceptionalisms?" (ch. 9) - both in Katznelson and Zolberg, eds, Working-Class Formation: Nineteenth-Century Patterns in Western Europe and the United States (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1986 ISBN 0-69110-207-4).

**Week 13. Nazism in Germany.**

Read: M. Rainer Lepsius, "From fragmented party democracy to government by emergency decree and National Socialist takeover: Germany," ch. 2 in Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, eds., The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes: Europe (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins U. Press, 1978, ISBN 0-8018-2022-7).

Week 14. **Party Realignment in America.**

Read: Abramson, et al., Introduction, Ch. 3-6, 8, 10-11.

Read the outline of party realignment on the course web site.

*Recommended:* E. J. Dionne, Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent (New York: Bloomsbury, 2012), selections.

Martin P. Wattenberg, The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1996 (Harvard U. Press, 1998) selections.