

SOC 267: Political Sociology
Spring 2015

Tuesdays 1-3 pm
601 William James Hall

Bart Bonikowski
Office: 636 William James Hall
Email: bonikowski@fas.harvard.edu
Phone: 617-496-5029
Office hours: Tuesdays, 3-5 pm

Course description: This course provides graduate students with an introduction to the sociological study of politics. Broadly defined, political sociology is the study of power relations between society and the state; therefore, we will begin the course by examining multiple definitions of power and considering how this phenomenon can be studied empirically. We will then move on to readings concerning the origins of democratic political systems and the national polities they govern, as well as the ways in which states interact with (and shape) markets. Among the defining characteristics of democracy during the twentieth century was the gradual expansion of social rights; to better understand this process we will examine multiple models of welfare state provision and the unique historical trajectory of American social policy. In the second half of the course, we will shift our focus from the functioning of the state to the political behavior of the public. The readings will cover topics such as the construction and institutionalization of social categories (including citizenship itself), the relationship between inequality and political attitudes, and the attempts by social movements to affect political change. Finally, we will consider the nation-state in the international context and examine some recent attempts to incorporate Bourdieusian field theory into the study of politics. By the end of the course, students will have a good understanding of the central topics in political sociology, which will be particularly useful to those who wish to take qualifying exams or pursue empirical research in this subfield.

Requirements:

- 1. Attendance and participation (25 percent).** Given that this is a small seminar, we will dedicate most of our time to collectively reviewing, comparing, and critiquing the assigned readings. Consequently, it is crucial that students come to class thoroughly prepared.

- 2. Weekly written responses (10 percent).** To facilitate discussion, students will write weekly responses to three of the assigned readings. The responses should be about a page in length and include the following: a very brief outline of the main analytical contributions of the readings; a critique of the readings' theoretical or empirical shortcomings; and a discussion of ways in which the readings can inform future empirical research (specific research

ideas are particularly welcome). The responses must be posted online by Monday at noon (this is a firm deadline). I will make brief comments in the margins and return the responses to the students prior to class. Students are also encouraged to reply to the comments posted by their classmates, both before and after each week's meeting. No responses are due during the first week of classes.

3. **Class presentations (15 percent).** During each week, one student will be responsible for a ten-minute presentation on that week's assigned material. The presentations will critique the readings and raise questions for class discussion. During their assigned week, presenters will not be expected to post a weekly written response. No presentations will take place during the first week of classes.
4. **Research proposal and presentation (50 percent).** Finally, students will produce a research proposal that builds on the material covered in the course. The proposal should present an original research question, situate it in the existing literature, and describe the most appropriate research design for the chosen topic. If students intend to use the proposal to obtain research funding, the proposal can be formatted in accordance with the requirements of the relevant funding agency. Alternative writing assignments may be acceptable, but only if I approve them ahead of time. Students will present their proposals during the last meeting of the semester.

Assigned readings: Because we will be covering a lot of ground in a relatively short period of time, most of the readings consist of selections from books or articles published in scholarly journals. Scanned versions of the readings are available for download from the course iSite. In addition, we will read Steven Lukes's *Power* in its entirety (make sure to read the second edition, which is quite different from the first). Students who intend to take a qualifying exam in political sociology or are simply interested in additional reading may also want to purchase some of the other books listed in the syllabus instead of relying solely on my selections.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Feb. 10): Power and the State

Lukes, Steven. 2005. *Power: A Radical View*. 2nd Edition. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. (*Power* is available for purchase at the Coop.)

Skocpol, Theda. 1999 [1985]. "Bringing the State Back In" Pp. 3-43 in *Bringing the State Back In*, edited by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer, and Theda Skocpol. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Starr, Paul. 2007. *Freedom's Power: The True Force of Liberalism*. New York: Basic Books.

Chapters 1, 2 (pp. 15-52)

[No written responses due this week. No presentations.]

Week 2 (Feb. 17): State Formation

- Moore, Barrington. 1993 [1966]. *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.
Chapter 7-9 (pp. 413-483)
- Tilly, Charles. 1992. *Coercion, Capital, and European States, AD 990-1992*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.
Chapters 1, 3 (pp. 1-37, 67-95)
- Mann, Michael. 1993. *The Sources of Social Power, Vol I: A History of Power from the Beginning to A.D. 1760*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Chapters 1, 15 (pp. 1-34, 450-500)

Week 3 (Feb. 24). Nationalism

- Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
Chapters 1, 3-4 (pp. 1-7, 19-52)
- Anderson, Benedict R. 2006. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. New York: Verso.
Chapters 1-4 (pp. 1-67)
- Smith, Anthony D. 1989. "The Origins of Nations." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 12:340-67.
- Wimmer, Andreas, and Yuval Feinstein. 2010. "The Rise of the Nation-State across the World, 1816 to 2001." *American Sociological Review* 75:764-90.

Week 4 (Feb. 27): States and Markets

- Fligstein, Neil. 1996. "Markets as Politics: A Political-Cultural Approach to Market Institutions." *American Sociological Review* 61:656-73.
- Roy, William G. 1997. *Socializing Capital: The Rise of the Large Industrial Corporation in America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
Chapters 1, 3, and 4 (pp. 3-20, 41-114)
- Dobbin, Frank, and Timothy J. Dowd. 2000. "The Market that Antitrust Built: Public Policy, Private Coercion, and Railroad Acquisitions, 1825 to 1922." *American Sociological Review* 65:631-57.
- Evans, Peter, and James E. Rauch. 1999. "Bureaucracy and Growth: A Cross-National Analysis of 'Weberian' State Structures on Economic Growth." *American Sociological Review* 64:748-65.

Week 5 (Mar. 3): The Welfare State

- Esping-Andersen, Gosta. 1990. *The Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.
Introduction, Chapters 1, 9 (pp. 1-34, 221-29)
- Skocpol, Theda. 1992. *Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of Social Policy in the United States*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press.
Introduction (pp. 1-62)
- Mohr, John W. 1994. "Soldiers, Mothers, Tramps, and Others: Discourse Roles in the 1907 New York City Charity Directory." *Poetics* 22:327-57.

Steensland, Brian. 2006. "Cultural Categories and the American Welfare State: The Case of Guaranteed Income Policy." *American Journal of Sociology* 111:1273-326.

Week 6 (Mar. 10): The State and Social Boundaries

Scott, James C. 1998. *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
Chapters 2, 9, 10 (pp. 53-83, 309-357)

Starr, Paul. 1992. "Social Categories and Claims in the Liberal State." *Social Research* 59:263-95.

Wimmer, Andreas. 2008. "The Making and Unmaking of Ethnic Boundaries: A Multilevel Process Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 113:970-1022.

Mar. 17: Spring Recess, no class

Week 7 (Mar. 24): Social Movements: Resource Mobilization and Political Process

Smelser, Neil J. 1962. "Structural Strain Underlying Collective Behavior." Pp. 47-66 in *Theory of Collective Behavior*. NY: Free Press.

McCarthy, John D., and Mayer Zald. 1977. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 82:1212-41.

Doug McAdam. 1999. *Political Process and the Development of Black Insurgency*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.
Chapters 3, 5, 8 (pp. 36-59, 65-116, 181-229)

Kurzban, Charles. 1996. "Structural Opportunity and Perceived Opportunity in Social-Movement Theory: The Iranian Revolution of 1979." *American Sociological Review* 61:153-170.

Week 8 (Mar. 31): Social Movements: Framing and Networks

Snow, David A., and Robert D. Benford, 1988. "Ideology, Frame Resonance, and Participant Mobilization," *International Social Movement Research* 1:197-217

Ferree, Myra M. 2003. "Resonance and Radicalism: Feminist Framing in the Abortion Debates of the United States and Germany." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:304-44.

Mische, Ann. 2003. "Cross-Talk in Movements: Rethinking the Culture-Network Link." Pp. 258-80 in *Social Movements and Networks: Relational Approaches to Collective Action*, edited by Mario Diani and Doug McAdam. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Viterna, Jocelyn S. 2006. "Pulled, Pushed, and Persuaded: Explaining Women's Mobilization into the Salvadoran Guerrilla Army." *American Journal of Sociology* 112:1-45.

Week 9 (Apr. 7): Social Cleavages and Political Polarization

Lipset, Seymour M., and Stein Rokkan. 1967. "Cleavage Structures, Party Systems, and Voter Alignments" Pp. 1-64 in *Party Systems and Voter Alignments: Cross-*

- National Perspectives*, edited by Seymour M. Lipset and Stein Rokkan. New York: The Free Press.
- Manza, Jeff, and Clem Brooks. 1999. *Social Cleavages and Political Change*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Chapter 1 (pp. 9-30)
- DiMaggio, Paul, John Evans, and Bethany Bryson. 1996. "Have Americans' Social Attitudes Become More Polarized?" *American Journal of Sociology* 102:690-755.
- Baldassarri, Delia, and Andrew Gelman. 2008. "Partisans without Constraint: Political Polarization and Trends in American Public Opinion." *American Journal of Sociology* 114:408-46.

Week 10 (Apr. 14): Political Parties

- De Leon, Cedric. 2010. "Vicarious Revolutionaries: Martial Discourse and the Origins of Mass Party Competition in the United States, 1789–1848." *Studies in American Political Development* 24:121–41.
- Mudge Stephanie. 2011. "What's Left of Leftism? Neoliberal Politics in Western Party Systems, 1945–2006." *Social Science History* 35:337–79.
- Slez, Adam, and John Levi Martin. 2007. "Political Action and Party Formation in the United States Constitutional Convention." *American Sociological Review* 72:42-67.
- Parigi Paolo, and Laura Sartori. 2014. "The Political Party as a Network of Cleavages: Disclosing the Inner Structure of Italian Political Parties in the Seventies." *Soc. Netw.* 36:54–65

Week 11 (Apr. 21): Field Theory in Political Sociology

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1994. "Rethinking the State: Genesis and Structure of the Bureaucratic Field." *Sociological Theory* 12:1-18
- Fligstein, Neil, and Doug McAdam. 2012. *A Theory of Fields*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Chapters 1-4 (pp. 3-112)
- Evans, Rhonda, and Tamara Kay. 2008. "How Environmentalists "Greened" Trade Policy: Strategic Action and the Architecture of Field Overlap." *American Sociological Review* 73:970-91.

Week 12 (Apr. 28): Presentations of Research Proposals

[Unconfirmed: Week 13 (May 5): Presentations of Research Proposals]