

# **POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

**SOCI/INTL 421**

**FALL 2017**

Tuesday & Thursday, 13:00-14:15

ENG B21

**Instructor:** Burak Gürel

**Office:** SOS 253

**Office hours:** Thursday, 10:00-12:00 or by appointment.

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## **Course Description**

This undergraduate course aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to the field of political sociology. It will help the students to understand and critically analyze the theoretical content and methodological aspects of the key works of the literature. This skill will enable them to design and carry out political sociological research projects of their own.

## **Course Requirements**

**Attendance and Participation:** Unless you have a legitimate excuse, you are expected to attend all classes. If there is an extenuating situation that prevents you from coming to class, please inform me in advance. If you miss more than two classes with or without a legitimate excuse, the possibility of you successfully finishing this class would significantly decrease. Each student is expected to actively participate in class discussions.

**Position papers:** Each student is required to write a total of 4 position papers on the

reading materials of the weeks of her/his own choosing. The length of each position paper should be 4 double-spaced pages **maximum**. Position papers should be submitted (**via email** to the instructor) **before** the start of the class meeting in which the related reading materials are to be discussed. For example, if a student intends to submit a position paper on the reading materials of Week 4 (October 10&12), he/she should submit it **before** October 10, 1 pm. Position papers about the previous weeks' readings are **not** going to be accepted.

**Midterm exam:** There will be one midterm exam (on **November 2**). It will include multiple choice test questions and short essay questions.

**Book review:** As a final assignment, students are required to write a book review (10 double spaced pages **maximum**). The instructor will provide a list of books for review, guideline for writing a book review, and sample book reviews. The deadline for the submission of book reviews (**via email** to the instructor) is **5 January 2018**.

### **Grade distribution**

Position papers: 20%

Midterm: 35%

Book review: 35%

Participation: 10%

### **Koç University's Policy on Academic Honesty**

Official university regulations describe academic dishonesty and sanctions against it as follows: "Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating, plagiarism, or collusion are serious offenses and are not tolerated at Koç University. University Academic Regulations and the Regulations for Student Disciplinary Matters clearly define the

policy and the disciplinary action to be taken in case of academic dishonesty. Failure in academic integrity may lead to suspension and expulsion from the University. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying from a classmate or providing answers or information, either written or oral, to others. Plagiarism is borrowing or using someone else's writing or ideas without giving written acknowledgment to the author. This includes copying from a fellow student's paper or from a text (whether printed or electronic) without properly citing the source. Collusion is getting unauthorized help from another person or having someone else write a paper or assignment."

### **Reading List & Schedule**

#### **Week 1: Introduction to the course (September 19&21)**

#### **Week 2: Power and politics (September 26&28)**

Elisabeth S. Clemens, *What is Political Sociology?*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016, Chapter 1 (pp. 5-24).

#### **Week 3: Theories of the state (1) (October 3&5)**

Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, London: Penguin Books, (1884) 2010, Chapter IX (pp. 195-217).

V.I. Lenin, *State and Revolution*, Chicago: Haymarket Books, (1917) 2014, Chapters 1 & 5 (pp. 41-58, 121-142).

Richard Lachmann, *States and Power*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 1-65).

#### **Week 4: Theories of the state (2) (October 10&12)**

Elisabeth S. Clemens, *What is Political Sociology?*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016, Chapter 2 (pp. 25-44).

Charles Tilly, "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer & Theda Skocpol (eds.), *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp. 169-191.

**Week 5: Nationalism (October 17&19)**

Richard Lachmann, *States and Power*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010, pp. 66-100.

**Week 6: Political hegemony (October 24&26)**

David Forgacs (ed.), *The Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*, New York: New York University Press, 2000, Chapter 6 (pp. 189-221).

Eske van Gils and Erdem Yörük, "The World Bank's Social Assistance Recommendations for Developing and Transition Countries: Containment of Political Unrest and Mobilization of Political Support," *Current Sociology*, Vol: 65, No: 1, 2017, pp. 113-132.

Tariq Thachil, "Elite Parties, Poor Voters: Theory and Evidence from India," *American Political Science Review*, Vol: 108, No: 2, 2014, pp. 454-477.

**Week 7: Midterm week (October 31& November 2)**

Midterm review (October 31)

**MIDTERM EXAM (NOVEMBER 2)**

**Week 8: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (1) (November 7&9)**

Elisabeth S. Clemens, *What is Political Sociology?*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2016, Chapter 3 (pp. 45-63).

Richard Lachmann, *States and Power*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010, Chapter 6 (pp. 173-190).

Giovanni Arrighi, Terence K. Hopkins, and Immanuel Wallerstein, *Antisystemic Movements*, London & New York: Verso, 1989, Chapters 2 & 3 (pp. 29-76).

**Week 9: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (2) (November 14&16)**

Leon Trotsky, *The History of the Russian Revolution, Volume 1: The Overthrow of Tzarism*, New York: Simon and Schuster, (1932) 1937, Preface & Chapters 1 & 3 (pp. xvii-xxii, 3-15, 33-51).

Lucien Bianco, *Origins of the Chinese Revolution, 1915-1949*, Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1971, Chapter 1 & Conclusion (pp. 1-26, 199-208).

**Week 10: The developmentalist state (November 21 &23)**

Robert C. Allen, *Farm to Factory: A Reinterpretation of the Soviet Industrial Revolution*, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2003, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-17).

Ho-fung Hung, *The China Boom: Why China Will Not Rule the World*, New York: Columbia University Press, 2016, Chapter 2 (pp. 34-51).

Cristóbal Kay, "Why East Asia Overtook Latin America: Agrarian Reform, Industrialisation and Development," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol: 23, No: 6, 2002, pp. 1073-1102.

Ashwani Saith, "China and India: The Institutional Roots of Differential Performance," *Development and Change*, Vol: 39, No: 5, 2008, pp. 723-757.

**Week 11: Non-capitalist states and their collapse (1) (November 28&30)**

Leon Trotsky, *The Revolution Betrayed: What is the Soviet Union and Where It is Going?*, New York: Pathfinder Press, [1937] 1972, pp. 45-64, 86-114, 234-256, 291-300.

**Week 12: Non-capitalist states and their collapse (2) (December 5&7)**

Yiching Wu, *The Cultural Revolution at the Margins: Chinese Socialism in Crisis*,

Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014, Chapters 2&5&6 (pp. 17-52, 142-222).

**Week 13: Non-capitalist states and their collapse (3) (December 12&14)**

Perry Anderson, "Incommensurate Russia," *New Left Review*, No: 94, 2015, pp. 5-43.

Ivan Szélenyi, "Capitalisms after Communism," *New Left Review*, No: 96, 2015, pp. 39-51.

Joel Andreas, "Changing Colours in China," *New Left Review*, No: 54, 2008, pp. 123-142.

Choe Sang-hun, "As Economy Grows, North Korea's Grip on Society is Tested," *The New York Times*, 30 April 2017.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/30/world/asia/north-korea-economy-marketplace.html?mcubz=3>

**Week 14: Course review (December 19&21)**

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BOOK REVIEWS IS 5 JANUARY 2018.**