

**POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOCI/INTL 421
SPRING 2025**

Class time: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 AM–11:10 AM

Class location: SOS103

Instructor: Burak Gürel

Office: SOS 253

Office hours: Tuesday, 2:30 PM–4:30 PM

Email: bgurel@ku.edu.tr

Teaching assistant: Furkan Sönmez (fsonmez24@ku.edu.tr)

Course Description

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

Course Organization and Requirements

Position papers: Each student must write four position papers on readings from weeks of their choice. Each paper should be between 700 and 1,000 words in length (Times New Roman, 12-point font, Word document—not PDF). Position papers must be submitted via email to the instructor and teaching assistant by **Tuesday at 9 AM** each week. Papers on readings from previous weeks will **not** be accepted.

Students are expected to carefully read all assigned materials for the chosen week and discuss all of them in their position paper. **The instructor may ask students to present their position papers briefly in class, so they should be prepared.**

Midterm exam: The midterm exam consists of two short essay questions. **A make-up exam is permitted only with a documented medical emergency.**

Final exam: The final exam consists of two short essay questions. **A make-up exam is permitted only with a documented medical emergency.**

Participation: Attendance is not mandatory, but your level of participation will significantly impact your participation grade. You are expected to engage thoughtfully in class discussions. Participation should be informed, meaning that you must complete the assigned readings in advance and base your comments and questions on them.

Grade Distribution

Midterm exam: 30%

Final exam: 30%

Position papers: 20% (5% × 4 papers)

Participation: 20%

Grading scale

Letter Grade	Scale	Suggested Grade Range
A	4	90–100
A-	3,7	87–89
B+	3,3	83–86
B	3	80–82
B-	2,7	77–79
C+	2,3	73–76
C	2	70–72
C-	1,7	67–69
D+	1,3	64–66
D	1	60–63
F	0	0–59

<https://cssh.ku.edu.tr/en/about/faculty-resources/grading-scale/>

Koç University’s Policy on Academic Honesty

According to Koç University’s *Student Code of Conduct*, “academic dishonesty includes and is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, multiple submissions, and collusion.” A clear explanation of this issue is available here: <https://apdd.ku.edu.tr/en/academic-policies/student-code-of-conduct/>

Reading List & Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to the course (February 18 & 20)

Week 2: Power and politics (February 25 & 27)

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

Week 3: Theories of the state (1) (March 4 & 6)

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

Vladimir 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) (March 11 & 13)

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 and Theda Skocpol (eds.), *Bringing the State Back In*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985, pp. 169–191.

Week 5: Nationalism (March 18 & 20)

Richard Lachmann, *States and Power*, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2010, Chapter 3 (pp. 66–100).

Şahan Savaş Karataşlı, "Political Economy of Secession: Global Waves of State-Seeking Nationalism, 1492 to Present." In Albert J. Bergesen and Christian Suter (eds.), *The Return of Geopolitics*, Zurich: LIT Verlag, 2018, pp. 69–95.

Week 6: Political hegemony (March 25 & 27)

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.

Leslie E. Anderson, "Fascists or Revolutionaries? Left and Right Politics of the Rural Poor," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 27, No. 2, 2006, pp. 191–214.

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

RAMAZAN BAYRAMI/ SPRING BREAK (MARCH 31–APRIL 4)

Week 7: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (1) (April 8 & 10)

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).

Week 8: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (2) (April 15 & 17)

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, Harmondsworth: The Penguin Press, 1966, Chapters 1 & 2 (pp. 3–110).

Pepjin Brandon, "The Dutch Revolt: A Social Analysis," *International Socialism*, No. 116, 2007, <https://isj.org.uk/the-dutch-revolt-a-social-analysis/>

Week 9: Midterm exam (April 22 & 24)

Midterm review: April 22

Midterm exam: April 24

Week 10: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (3) (April 29)

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

Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, Harmondsworth: The Penguin Press, 1966, Chapter 4 (pp. 162–227).

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

MAY 1, Labor and Solidarity Day – NO CLASS

Week 11: State-society relations and economic development (1) (May 6 & 8)

Robert C. Allen, *Global Economic History: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, Chapters 3 & 6 (pp. 27–52, 64–90).

Ho-fung Hung, “Agricultural Revolution and Elite Reproduction in Qing China: The Transition to Capitalism Debate Revisited,” *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 73, No. 4, 2008, pp. 569–588.

Week 12: State-society relations and economic development (2) (May 13 & 15)

Maurice Zeitlin, *The Civil Wars in Chile (Or The Bourgeois Revolutions That Never Were)*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984, pp. 3–20, 134–237.

Week 13: State-society relations and economic development (3) (May 20 & 22)

Robert C. Allen, *Global Economic History: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, Chapter 9 (pp. 131–145).

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

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

Burak Gürel, “The Role of Collective Mobilization in the Divergent Performance of the Rural Economies of China and India (1950-2005),” *Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 5, 2019, pp. 1021–1046.

Week 14: Class, state, and socio-economic change in Turkey (May 27 & 29)

Burak Gürel and Kadir Selamet, “The Rise and Fall of Community Development in Rural Turkey, 1960-1980,” *Journal of Agrarian Change*, 2025, pp. 1–22.

Murat Metinsoy, “Negotiating the Price of the New State and Republican Modernization: Resistance to the Agricultural Taxes in Modern Turkey,” *New Perspectives on Turkey*, Vol. 63, pp. 80–112.

Vedat Milor, “The Genesis of Planning in Turkey,” *New Perspectives on Turkey*, Vol. 4, 1990, pp. 1–30.

Mustafa Tuna, “The Missing Turkish Revolution: Comparing Village-Level Change and Continuity in the Republican Turkey and Soviet Central Asia, 1920–50,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 50, No. 1, 2018, pp. 23–43.

The time and location of the final exam will be announced by the Registrar’s Office.