

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY

SOCI/INTL 421

FALL 2019

Class time: Monday & Wednesday, 13:00-14:15 pm

Class location: SNAB153

Instructor: Burak Gürel

Office: SOS 253

Office hours: Wednesday, 10 am-12 pm or by appointment.

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Course Description

This 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 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. Each position paper should outline the main arguments of the reading materials of the week, discuss their similarities and

differences, and explain their relevance/irrelevance with reference to other reading materials (that are **not** assigned/included in this course), journalistic accounts, artistic products (films, literature, etc.), etc. The length of each position paper should be 4 or 5 double-spaced pages (Times New Roman, 12-font, Word – **not PDF**– document). Position papers should be submitted (**via email** to the instructor) by **Monday at 9 am** (in order to give the instructor enough time to review the position papers before class meetings on Mondays at 1 pm). For example, if a student intends to submit a position paper on the reading materials of Week 4 (October 7&9), he/she should submit it on October 7 at **9 am the latest**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted.

Midterm exams: There will be two midterm exams (on **November 6** and **December 11**). They will **primarily** include short essay questions and **may** include a few other types (matching, fill-in-the-blanks, multiple choice, etc.) of questions.

Final paper: As a final assignment, students are required to write a book review (between 8 to 10 double-spaced pages, Times New Roman, 12-font, Word – **not PDF**– document). The instructor will provide a list of books for review, a guideline for writing a book review, and sample book reviews. The deadline for the submission of book reviews (**via email** to the instructor) is **December 31, 2019**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted/graded.

Grade distribution

Position papers: 20%

Midterms: 40%

Final paper: 30%

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 16&18)

Students are expected to decide whether or not to take this course by the end of the first week.

Week 2: Theories of the state (1) (September 23&25)

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

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 3: Theories of the state (2) (September 30&October 2)

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 4: Nationalism (October 7&9)

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 & Christian Suter (eds.), *The Return of Geopolitics*. Zurich: Lit, 2018, Chapter 5 (pp. 69-95).

Week 5: Political hegemony (October 14&16)

David Forgacs (ed.), *The Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*, New York: New York University Press, 2000, Chapters 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 6: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (October 21&23)

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).

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 7: Fascism (October 30)

Götz Aly, *Hitler's Beneficiaries: Plunder, Racial War, and the Nazi Welfare State*, New York: Metropolitan Books, 2008, Chapters 6&11&13 (pp. 156-182, 279-283, 310-327).

Leslie E. Anderson, "Fascists or Revolutionaries? Left and Right Politics of the Rural Poor." *International Political Science Review*, Vol: 27, No: 2, 2006, pp. 196–202 (**not** the entire article, only this assigned part).

Leon Trotsky, "What is National Socialism?," 1933, <https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/germany/1933/330610.htm>

Week 8: First midterm (November 4&6)

Midterm review (November 4)

Midterm exam (November 6)

Week 9: The developmentalist state (November 11&13)

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).

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

Week 10: Non-capitalist states and their collapse (1) (November 18&20)

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 11: Non-capitalist states and their collapse (2) (November 25&27)

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 12: Non-capitalist states and their collapse (3) (December 2&4)

Ivan Szelenyi, “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 13: Second midterm (December 9&11)

Midterm review: December 9

Midterm exam: December 11

Week 14: Course review (December 16&18)

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF BOOK REVIEWS IS **DECEMBER 31, 2019.**