

POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
SOCI/INTL 421
SPRING 2023

Class time: Monday & Wednesday, 16:00-17:10

Class location: Online via Zoom

Instructor: Burak Gürel

Office: SOS 253

Office hours: Monday, 11:00-12:00, online via Zoom

E-mail: bgurel@ku.edu.tr

Teaching assistant: Deniz Sert (hsert@ku.edu.tr)

Course Description

This course aims to provide a comprehensive introduction to political sociology. It will help the students to understand and critically analyze the theoretical content and methodological aspects of the prominent works of the literature. This skill will enable the students 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 the instructor 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: Students must write **two position papers** on the reading materials of the weeks of their choosing. Each position paper should include the following:

1. A (very brief) summary of the main points of all reading materials of the week (only the main points, nothing else)
2. Comparison of (all or some of) the reading materials (explanation of to what extent they agree or disagree with each other)
3. Your thoughts on the reading materials

Position papers should conform the following format rules: Times New Roman, 12-font, double-spaced, Word – **not PDF**– document, between 600 and 1000 words. Position papers that do not conform to these rules will **not** be accepted/graded. Position papers should be submitted (**via email to the teaching assistant**) **before** the start of the class meeting in which the related reading materials are to be discussed. For example, if students intend to submit a position paper on the reading materials of Week 4 (March 20 & 22), they should submit **before** March 20, 1 pm. Late submissions will not be accepted/graded.

Midterm exam: There will be two midterm exams. Each exam will include 10 multiple choice test questions and two short essay questions.

Grade distribution

Position papers: 10 (5% each)

Midterms: 70% (35% each)

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 27 & March 1)

Week 2: Power and politics (March 6 & 8)

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

Week 3: Theories of the state (1) (March 13 & 15)

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 20 & 22)

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 27 & 29)

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 (April 3 & 5)

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.

Week 7: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (1) (April 10 & 12)

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).

Spring break & Ramadan holiday (April 17-23)**Week 8: First midterm (April 24 & 26)**

Midterm review (April 24)

Midterm exam (April 26)

Week 9: Regime breakdowns and revolutions (2) (May 3)

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).

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

Week 10: State-Society relations and economic development (1) (May 8 & 10)

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 11: State-society relations and economic development (2) (May 15 & 17)

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)," *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol: 46, No: 5, 2019, pp. 1021-1046.

Week 12: Second midterm (May 22 & 24)

Midterm review (May 22)

Midterm exam (May 24)

Week 13: Course review (May 29 & 31)